

FORBIDDEN WORLDS

10¢

MAR 7 AM

NO...NO...DON'T
HARM THAT DOLL!
I...I WANT TO
LIVE...

SUPERSTITION... IN A
FINISH FIGHT AGAINST
MODERN SCIENCE! DON'T
MISS
"VOODOO" and
DR. JAMES!

©GLEN WHITNEY



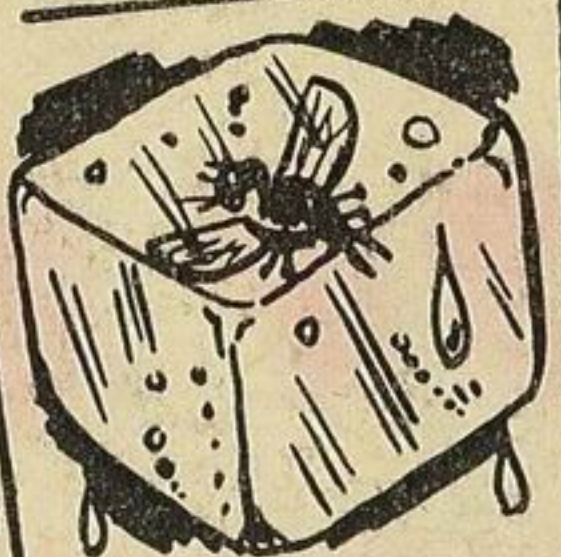
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84 SECRET CARD TRICKS
 With Chapter On Sleight Of Hand
 This book contains all the best tricks and deceptions with cards, including the latest tricks of all the top magicians. Each is especially picked so that it lends itself to home amusement and amazement. All simply explained. Chapter on sleight of hand is useful in detecting tricks while playing.
 012 **35c**



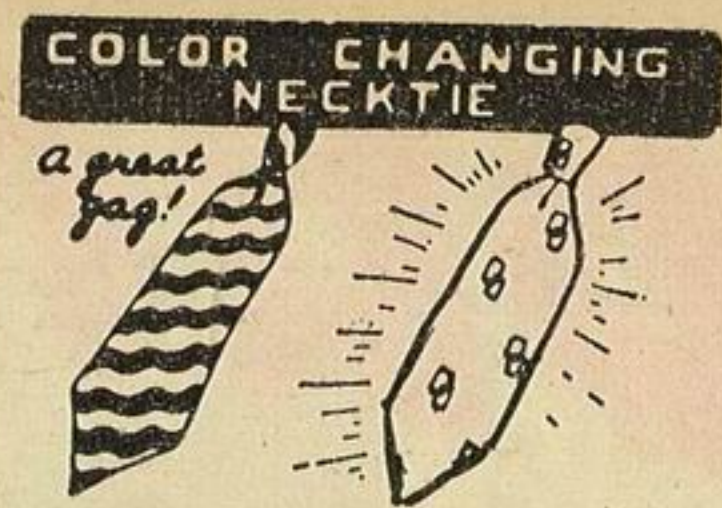
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FLY IN ICE CUBE
 Will create a sensation when they see this plastic ice cube in a cool drink. It has a real bug inside.
 No. 034.....Only **35c**



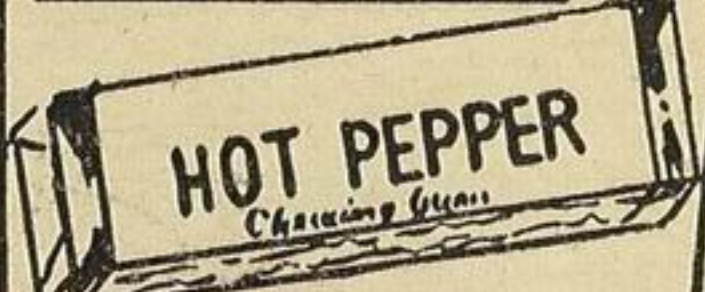
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 FANTASTIC! Looks exactly like what jungle head hunters prepare. Something new and startling to hang in your car or in your room. A horrible and unusual gift in a box.
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COLOR CHANGING TIE
 Let them complain about your "crazy" colored tie, and presto! it changes right before their eyes to a nice conservative tie. Do it anywhere, anytime! No threads, strings or wires used.
 738.....**\$1.00**



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 Place "King Tut" in his casket and watch him lie down. But, when someone else tries to rest him, he mysteriously rises from his grave. It's loads of fun and s-o-o mysterious.
 724.....**75c**



HOT PEPPER GUM
 Looks like real gum, but when they taste it, WOW! Burns their mouth, but only like pepper. Package of five sticks.
 No. 021.....Only **20c**



SURE-WIN COINS
 You get two coins. One is ordinary, the other looks exact, but it has two heads. Do tricks, win friendly bets.
 142.....Both only **25c**

TOYS! TRICKS! FUN!

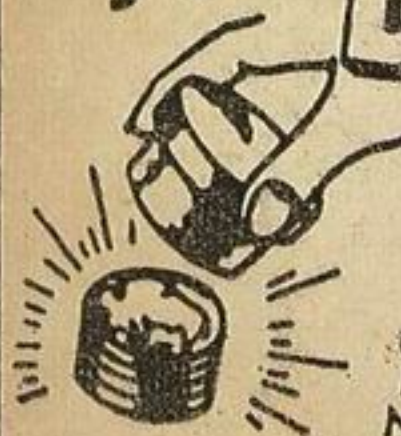
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NICKELS TO DIMITES



Brass cover is placed on four nickels. Spectator removes the cover and four dimes are discovered! Other startling effects performed.
 No. 215 **\$1.00**



SILVER SKULL RING
 Heavy Mexican silver ring with the raised face of skull and inlaid red ruby eyes. Feels good and looks really impressive. Adds heft to your hands.
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SECRET *of the* STEPPES!

ME... **JOHNNY KOLCHAK**... U.S. AIR CORPS PILOT... WATCHING NAPOLEON'S RETREAT FROM RUSSIA IN 1812!

THE BULGING FILES OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE OCCULT ARE A TREASURE-TROVE OF REPORTS, RUMORS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS AND CASE HISTORIES! THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY ARE SKEPTICAL MEN... HARD TO CONVINCE! BUT ONCE IN A WHILE A TALE IS STUDIED WHICH STARTLES EVEN THEM...

John R.

IN THE OFFICE OF **BYRON RICHARDS**, DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY...

HOW DO YOU DO? PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE **JOHNNY KOLCHAK**, WHO WILL TELL YOU HIS **OWN** INCREDIBLE STORY! WE'VE BEEN CHECKING THE FACTS FOR **TEN YEARS**... AND WE'RE SATISFIED THAT THEY'RE ALL **TRUE!**

I'M **JOHNNY KOLCHAK**! LET'S GO BACK A DECADE TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR! I WAS A FIGHTER PILOT IN THE PACIFIC, BASED ON OKINAWA...



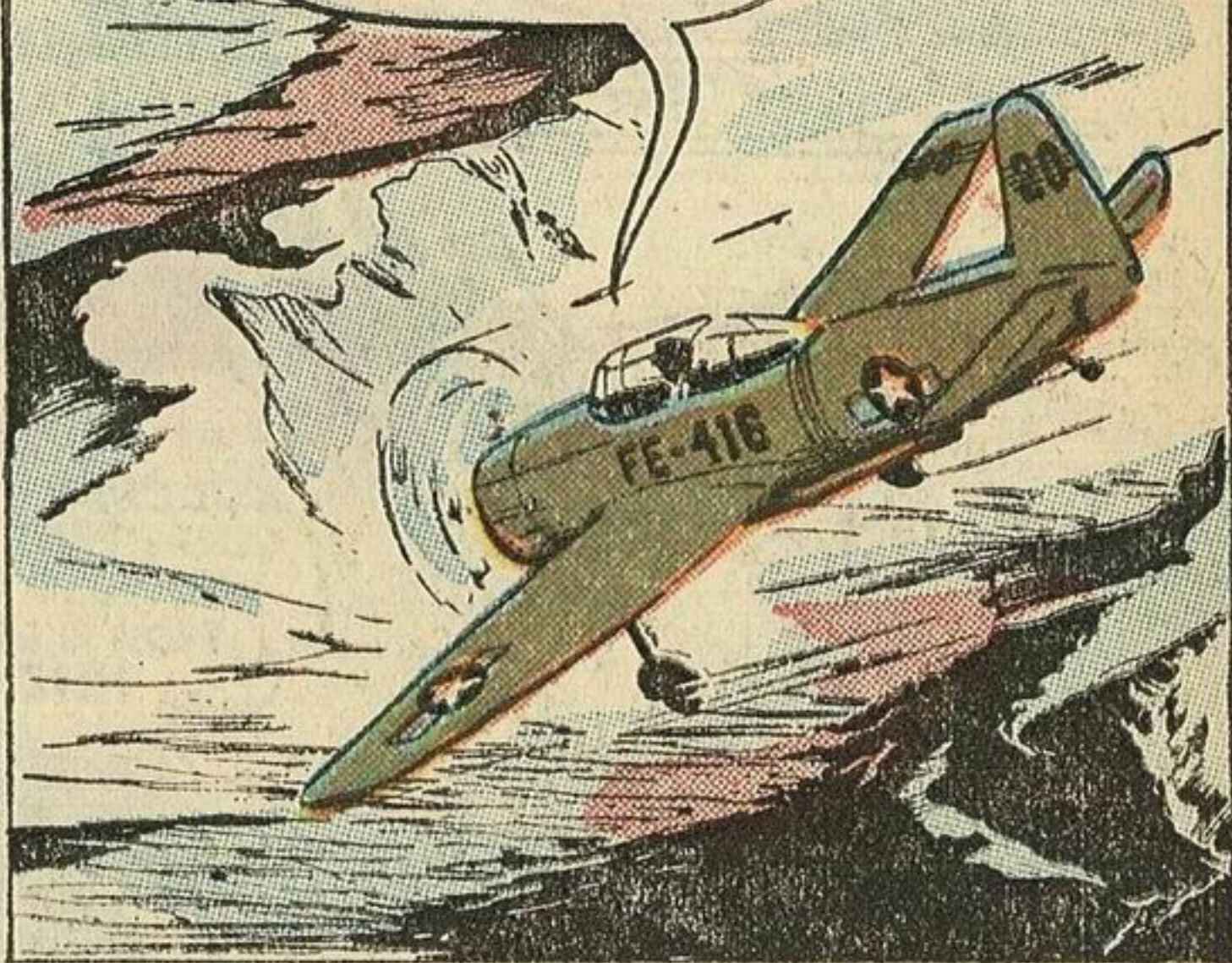
"IN A BATTLE WITH JAP ZEROS OVER THE CHINESE MAINLAND, MY PLANE HAD BEEN HIT! I ESCAPED PURSUIT BY CRASHING A CLOUD BANK, BUT I WAS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE..."

I'LL NEVER MAKE IT BACK TO OKINAWA! ONLY THING TO DO IS HEAD FOR THE RUSSIAN BORDER AND LAND THERE!



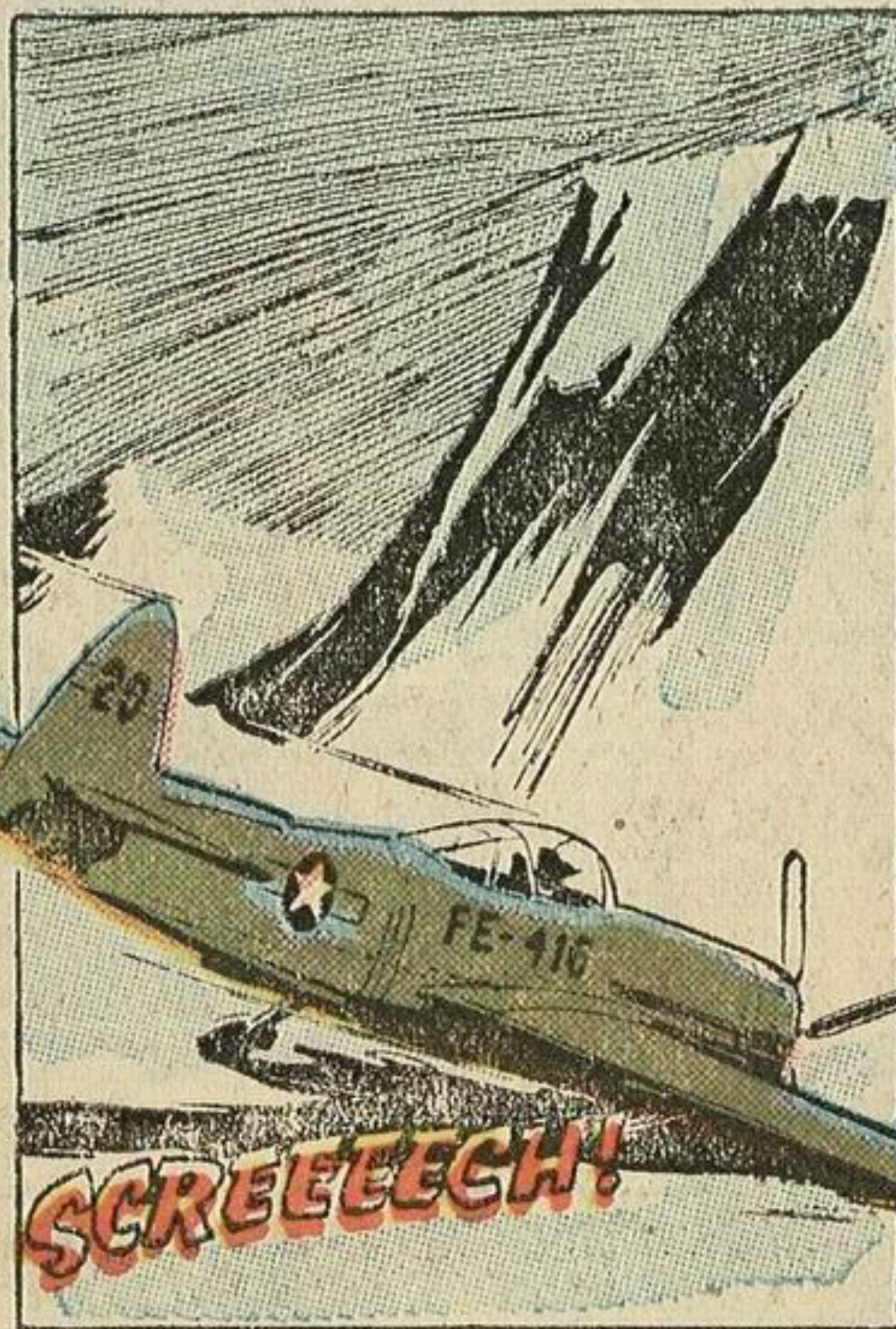
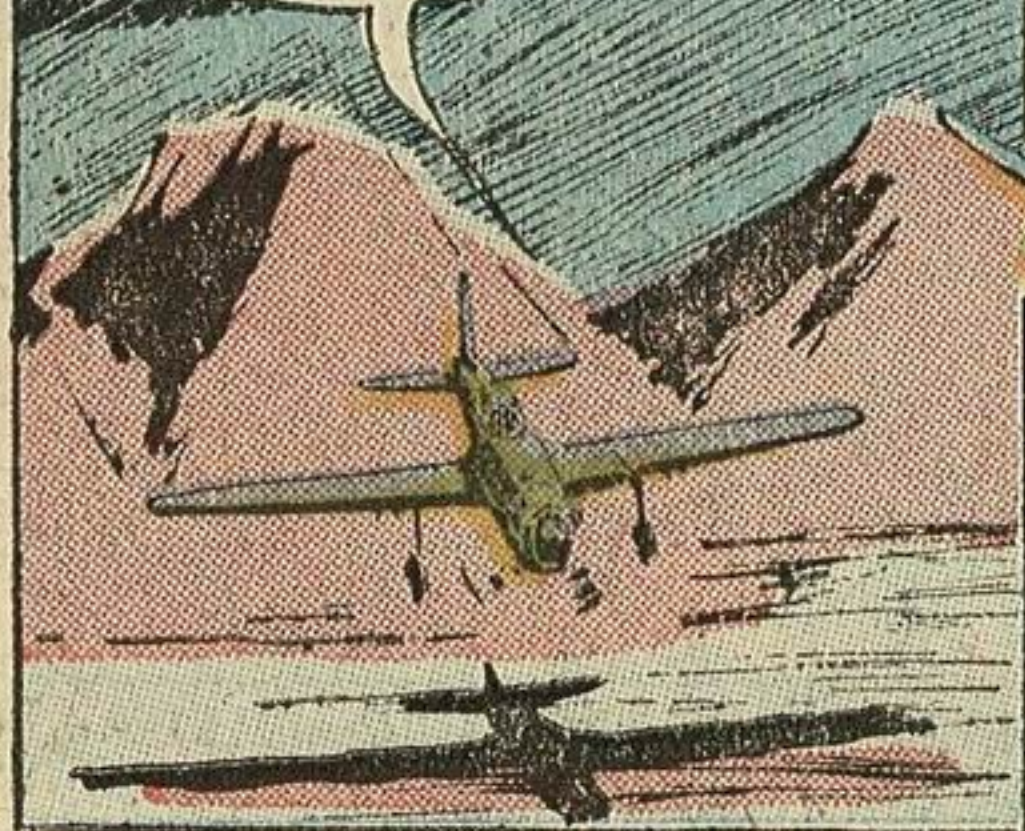
"RUSSIA WAS OUR ALLY AT THE TIME, AND THE SITUATION DIDN'T LOOK TOO BAD..."

NOTHING BUT **WASTES** BELOW! I'D SURE HATE TO CRASH LAND **HERE!**



"I WAS PART RUSSIAN ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE, AND I'D LEARNED TO HANDLE THE LANGUAGE AS A CHILD! BUT WHAT WITH DARKNESS AND A STORM, IT BEGAN TO LOOK LIKE I'D NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO **USE** MY KNOWLEDGE..."

WELL, HERE **GOES!**
LUCK, BE A LADY TONIGHT!



THE PLANE BELLIED OVER, ALMOST KNOCKING ME COLD! BUT I MANAGED TO SCRAMBLE OUT OF THE WRECKAGE JUST BEFORE...

TWENTY SECONDS LONGER AND I'D HAVE BEEN A **GONER!**



"I STAGGERED THROUGH THE SNOW IN SEARCH OF HELP, BUT I COULDN'T FIND MY WAY! SOON THE ICY COLD AND FATIGUE SAPPED MY STRENGTH..."

CAN'T... GO... ON! TOO TIRED... GOT TO... REST...



"I DROPPED UNCONSCIOUS, AND NEVER EXPECTED TO GET UP! AN INDEFINITE TIME LATER, I OPENED MY EYES TO FACE A PECULIAR SIGHT..."

LOOK, HE'S STILL ALIVE!

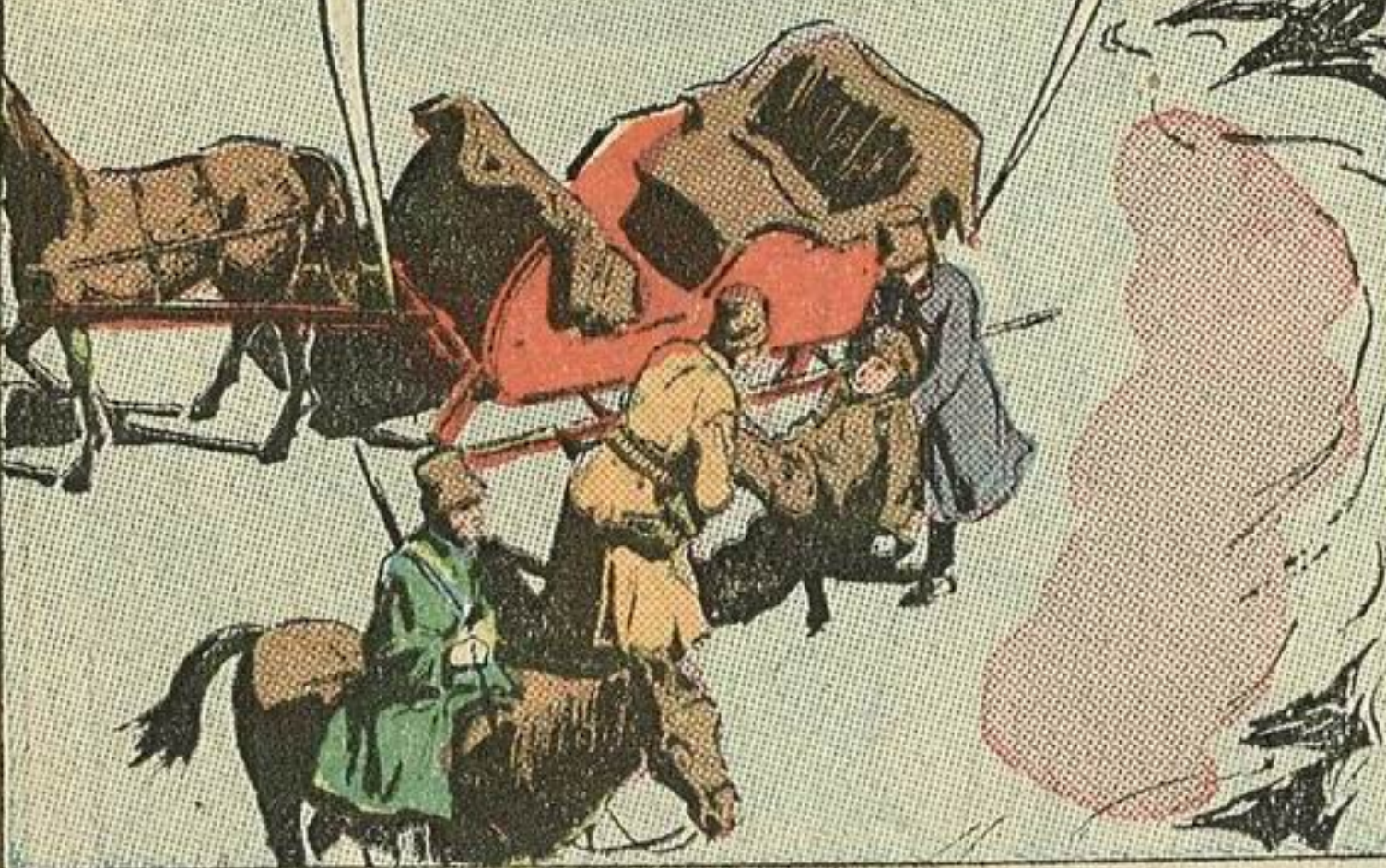
WHO IS HE? SUCH STRANGE CLOTHES!



"I WAS TOO WEAK TO SPEAK, BUT I KNEW THAT THEY WERE FRIENDLY! STRONG ARMS LIFTED ME UP..."

PUT HIM IN THE **TROIKA**! WE MUST HURRY TO THE TENT OF CAPTAIN **VOLKONSKI**... HE WILL KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS!

CAREFUL! HE MAY BE DYING!



"I MUST HAVE PASSED OUT AGAIN, BECAUSE THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER..."

WE FOUND HIM IN THE SNOW, CAPTAIN **VOLKONSKI**! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF HIS PECULIAR **CLOTHES**?

WHO KNOWS? PUT HIM ON THE COT AND CALL THE DOCTOR!



"WHEN I FINALLY CAME TO MY SENSES, I REALIZED THAT SOMETHING WAS VERY MUCH AMISS... **EXACTLY** WHAT, I WASN'T SURE..."

YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER TODAY, YOUNG MAN! I AM **IVAN VOLKONSKI**, COMMANDER OF THE GUERRILLA COSSACKS WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE!

I... I WANT TO THANK YOU GUYS! YOU SAVED MY LIFE!



DON'T THANK US **YET**... FOR YOU MAY MEET A FIRING SQUAD! I WANT THE **TRUTH**... ARE YOU ONE OF NAPOLEON'S SPIES OR NOT?

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? **NAPOLEON?**!



YES... **NAPOLEON**! DON'T PLAY THE INNOCENT WITH ME!

EITHER **THIS** GUY IS NUTS OR I AM!



AT THAT MOMENT...

CAPTAIN! OUR MEN HAVE SPOTTED SOME OF NAPOLEON'S SCOUTS NEAR THE RIVER! YOUR ORDERS?

GREAT **SCOTT**! WHAT IS ALL THIS?



"**VOLKONSKI** RUSHED OUTSIDE, WITH ME FOLLOWING..."

I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN! MEANWHILE, MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T ESCAPE!

GOOD GRIEF, THESE COSSACKS ARE DRESSED LIKE IT WAS **150 YEARS AGO**!



"IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT THE AMAZING TRUTH PENETRATED MY BRAIN..."

THEY... THEY KEEP TALKING ABOUT **NAPOLEON**! IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING... THIS IS THE YEAR **1812**, THE YEAR NAPOLEON INVADDED RUSSIA!



"VOLKONSKI LED A BAND OF RUSSIAN GUERRILLAS, ALL FIGHTING TO DEFEND THEIR HOMELAND AGAINST FOREIGN TYRANNY! THE CAPTAIN PROVED FRIENDLY ENOUGH, SOON BECAME CONVINCED I WASN'T A SPY..."

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I **TRUST** YOU! I'LL HAVE SOME WARM CLOTHES BROUGHT FOR YOU, BECAUSE YOU'LL HAVE TO REMAIN WITH **US** TILL IT'S SAFE TO TURN YOU OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES IN PETERSBURG!

WHATEVER YOU SAY...



"I DIDN'T KNOW **WHAT** TO MAKE OF THE SITUATION! HAD I BEEN KILLED IN THE PLANE CRASH, AND WAS ALL THIS SOME STRANGE DELUSION? WHO COULD TELL?"

IT'S NOT SAFE TO KEEP ONE CAMP TOO LONG! **MOUNT, KOLCHAK--WE'RE MOVING!**

BE **GLAD** TO... BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO RIDE A HORSE!



"TO MY AMAZE^{MENT}, THEY ALL BROKE INTO UPROARIOUS LAUGHTER..."

HA HA! CAN'T RIDE A HORSE! CAPITAL JOKE!

WHO EVER HEARD OF **ANY-ONE** NOT KNOWING HOW TO RIDE A HORSE? **HA HA!**



"BUT IT WAS TRUE, I'D NEVER SAT UPON A HORSE IN MY LIFE! BRUSQUELY, THEY THREW ME INTO THE SADDLE, AND I HAD TO HANG ON FOR DEAR LIFE..."

DON'T LAG BEHIND, KOLCHAK! WE'RE IN A HURRY!

I... I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN!



"BEFORE LONG, HOWEVER, I GOT THE HANG OF IT, AND I GREW ACCUSTOMED TO LIVING WITH THE COSSACKS..."

THAT SMALL FRENCH CAMP BELOW SHOULD PROVE AN EASY MARK! READY TO RIDE, KOLCHAK?

RIGHT WITH YOU, CAPTAIN!



"TAKING ME WITH THEM ON THEIR FORAYS AGAINST THE ENEMY WAS A MARK OF CONFIDENCE, AND I APPRECIATED IT! I DID MY BEST..."

AIEEE! IT'S THE COSSACKS!

RIDE, COMRADES!



"IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, VOLKONSKI AND I BECAME GREAT FRIENDS! HE WAS A FINE MAN, OPPOSED TO TYRANNY IN EVERY FORM..."

NAPOLEON IS A DICTATOR, A TYRANT! TYRANNY MUST **ALWAYS** BE DESTROYED!

I AGREE WITH YOU, IVAN! TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, NAPOLEON **WILL** BE BEATEN!



"WITH MY KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY, I **KNEW** WHAT WOULD HAPPEN! BUT WHEN IT ACTUALLY CAME TO PASS, WHEN ONE DAY WE ACTUALLY **SAW** NAPOLEON, WITH HIS BEATEN ARMY IN FULL RETREAT, IT WAS A GREAT THRILL..."

WE'LL FALL UPON THEIR OUTRIDERS AFTER DARK! THE FEWER THAT LEAVE RUSSIA ALIVE, THE BETTER!

NAPOLEON HIMSELF...AND I'M **LOOKING** AT HIM!

"WE'D INTENDED TO TAKE THE **ENEMY** BY SURPRISE! INSTEAD, GOING DOWN A RAVINE, WE OURSELVES WERE **AMBUSHED**..."

THE **FRENCH!** SEEK COVER!

WE...WE **DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!**



"WE SPURRED OUR HORSES IN A WILD DASH FOR SAFETY, BUT IT WAS USELESS! I SAW VOLKONSKI TOPPLE FROM HIS HORSE JUST AS..."

I'M **HIT!** SAVE YOURSELVES!

IVAN!...OH-HH!



AS I FELL OFF MY HORSE, STRUCK BY A FRENCH BULLET, EVERYTHING STARTED TO GO **BLACK!** I HEARD ONLY THE THUNDER OF HOOVES, RETREATING INTO THE DISTANCE...THEN NOTHING! WHEN I OPENED MY EYES AGAIN..."

HE'S STILL ALIVE! PUT HIM IN THE JEEP!

WH-WHERE...AM I? WHAT...HAPPENED...?



"IN THE BACKGROUND WAS MY FIGHTER PLANE, STILL **BURNING BRIGHTLY**..."

THE EXPLOSION WAS SEEN IN THE VILLAGE MILES AWAY! WE HURRIED HERE IMMEDIATELY! YOU ARE **AMERICAN**, NO?

I...I'M BACK IN THE PRESENT! ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT **NAPOLEON**... NEVER HAPPENED!



"THEY RUSHED ME TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS, WHERE TO MY AMAZEMENT, THEY TREATED ME WITH **HOSTILITY**..."

SO YOU SPEAK **RUSSIAN**, EH? A NECESSARY ABILITY...FOR A **SPY!**

SPY? I'M AN AMERICAN OFFICER! I DEMAND TO SPEAK TO THE U.S. CONSUL!



"I WAS CURTIS REFUSED AND RUSHED TO MOSCOW IN SECRECY! IN THE KREMLIN, I WAS GRILLED FOR HOURS..."

AS A FIGHTER PILOT, YOU MUST KNOW MANY **SECRETS** OF AMERICAN DESIGN! IT IS OUR WISH TO **KNOW** THEM!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR **MIND**? I'M NO TRAITOR!



YOU'LL TALK—SOONER OR LATER! WE HAVE **WAYS** OF BREAKING A MAN DOWN!

I DON'T GET IT—WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE **ALLIES**!



"I WAS THROWN INTO A SMALL, DARK CELL, BUT REST WAS IMPOSSIBLE..."

THE WHOLE BUSINESS ABOUT THE COSSACKS WAS JUST A **HALLUCINATION**! WHAT DO I DO **NOW**?



"MANY HOURS LATER, FOOD WAS AT LAST BROUGHT..."

HERE, YANKEE!

GREAT GUNS! THE JAILER LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE... **VOLKONSKI**!



"I TRIED TO GET THE JAILER TO SPEAK, BUT HE WAS HARD AND UNFRIENDLY! DAY AFTER DAY I WAS GRILLED... I WAS ALLOWED ALMOST NO SLEEP... AND POWERFUL LIGHTS BLAZED BEFORE MY EYES..."

SPEAK!

IT'S USELESS TO RESIST!

I CAN'T TAKE THIS MUCH LONGER! SOONER OR LATER I'LL **CRACK**!



"MY STRENGTH WAS NEARLY GONE WHEN THE JAILER, HANDING ME FOOD, SUDDENLY WHISPERED..."

FEAR NOTHING! YOU HAVE **FRIENDS**!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



"HE HURRIED AWAY, WITHOUT EXPLAINING FURTHER! BUT THAT NIGHT..."

PUT ON THIS UNIFORM... QUICK! EVERYTHING IS PREPARED... **FOLLOW ME!**



"I DID AS I WAS TOLD... FAST! FURTIVELY, WE HURRIED ALONG A MAZE OF CORRIDORS..."

IF WE MEET ANY GUARDS... LET **ME** DO THE TALKING! A JEEP IS WAITING OUTSIDE TO HELP YOU ESCAPE!

DON'T WORRY... I WON'T OPEN MY MOUTH!



"WE LEFT THE JAIL WITHOUT INCIDENT, HURRIED TOWARD THE WAITING VEHICLE..."

WHO **ARE** YOU MEN? WHY ARE YOU RISKING YOUR LIVES TO HELP ME?

WE ARE ENEMIES OF THIS CRUEL REGIME... WE ARE **TRUE PATRIOTS!** PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF... I AM **CORPORAL VOLKONSKI!**



"I STARED AT HIM INCREDULOUSLY, TOO STUNNED TO SPEAK FOR SEVERAL MINUTES..."

I REALIZE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE... BUT I HAVE THE FEELING THAT WE HAVE **MET BEFORE!** YOUR FACE IS STRANGELY FAMILIAR TO ME!

HOW... HOW COULD WE HAVE MET... BEFORE?



"I WAS BEING DRIVEN TO AN AIRFIELD, WHERE A **MIG** WAS WAITING! I WAS TO FLY IT TO SAFETY..."

PERHAPS WE SHALL MEET AGAIN... IN A HAPPIER TIME!

VOLKONSKI! WE ARE BEING FOLLOWED!



"THE PATRIOTS STOOD THEIR GROUND AGAINST THE PURSUERS, TO GIVE ME THE NEEDED FEW MINUTES TO MAKE MY GETAWAY..."

RUN, KOLCHAK! TELL YOUR COUNTRYMEN OF THIS!

STOP THEM!



"NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH THE CONTROLS OF THE **MIG**, IT TOOK ME A LITTLE WHILE TO GET STARTED! I SAW MY FRIENDS FALLING AS I LEFT THE GROUND..."

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

TOO LATE!



"IT WASN'T HARD REACHING THE AMERICAN BASE ON OKINAWA! THE RUSSIAN CRAFT COULDN'T HELP BUT CREATE A SENSATION..."

LT. JOHNNY KOLCHAK REQUESTS PERMISSION TO LAND! I AM AMERICAN... WILL EXPLAIN LATER!

IF HE'S AMERICAN, WHY IS HE FLYING A **MIG**? LET HIM LAND, BUT KEEP HIM COVERED WITH GUNS!



"I TOLD MY STORY TO THE FIELD COMMANDER, AND THEN OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO HIGHER AND HIGHER OFFICERS! I MET WITH THE SAME SKEPTICISM EVERYWHERE..."

MAYBE THE RUSSIAN DEMOCRATIC UNDERGROUND **DID** HELP YOU ESCAPE, BUT ALL THAT **OTHER** STUFF, ABOUT 1912... **NONSENSE!**

BUT IT'S **TRUE**, I TELL YOU... **TRUE!**

"FINALLY, I WAS SENT TO A BATTERY OF PSYCHIATRISTS..."

DELUSIONS SUCH AS YOURS ARE NOT AT ALL UNCOMMON! BUT IF YOU WANT TO PRESERVE YOUR SANITY, YOU MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO **FORGET** THEM!

ALL... ALL RIGHT! I'LL TRY TO PUT IT FROM MY MIND!

"MY EXPERIENCE HAUNTED ME, BUT AFTER A YEAR OF CIVILIAN LIFE IT WAS ALL BECOMING VERY DIM! YES, I DECIDED, IT WAS ALL JUST A STRANGE QUIRK OF THE BRAIN! BUT ONE DAY, ON A DATE WITH A GIRL I'D KNOWN FROM CHILDHOOD..."

LET'S GO **HORSEBACK** RIDING, JOHNNY. I KNOW YOU'VE NEVER RIDDEN, BUT I CAN **TEACH** YOU!

THAT'S **RIGHT**... I NEVER HAVE BEEN ON A HORSE!

"BUT THE MOMENT I SLIPPED INTO THE SADDLE, SOMETHING SEEMED TO EXPLODE IN MY BRAIN! I TOOK OFF AT A FULL GALLOP..."

WOW! WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO **RIDE** LIKE THAT? YOU'RE TAKING THAT HEDGE LIKE A **COSSACK!**

"IT WAS THEN, WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN, THAT I WENT TO THE **AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE OCCULT**..."

YOUR STORY IS MOST **INTERESTING**, MR. KOLCHAK! I'LL HAVE OUR INVESTIGATORS GET TO WORK **IMMEDIATELY!**

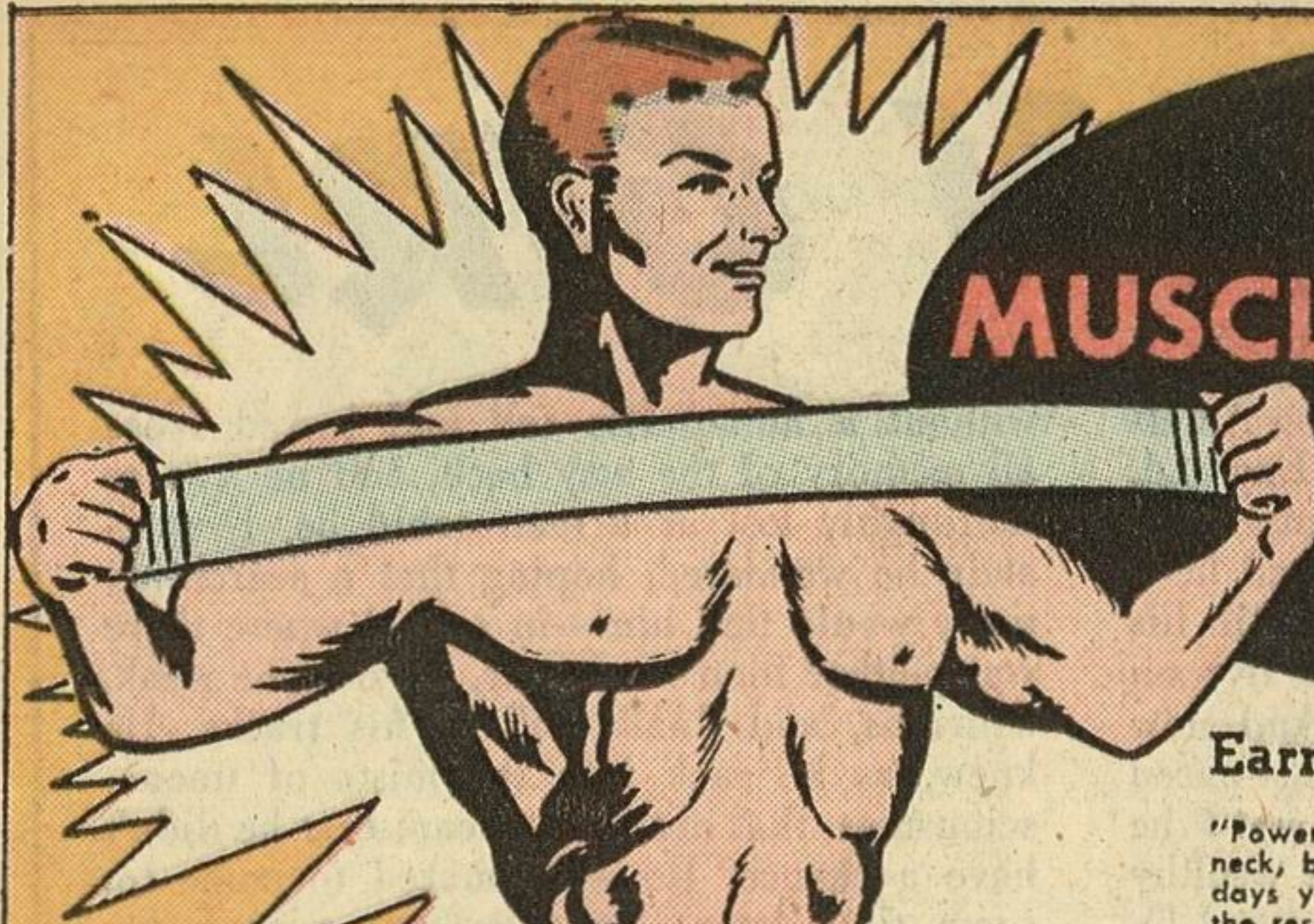
THAT'S ALL I WANT... AN **ANSWER!**

"MONTHS LATER..."

EXTRAORDINARY! AN EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF NAPOLEON'S CAMPAIN IN RUSSIA REVEALS THERE ACTUALLY **WAS** A GUERRILLA CHIEF NAMED **VOLKONSKI!** HE WAS KILLED IN A SURPRISE FRENCH RAID!

THAT'S JOHNNY KOLCHAK'S STORY! ALL OF US **HERE** ARE SATISFIED THAT IT'S TRUE! **ARE YOU?**

The END!



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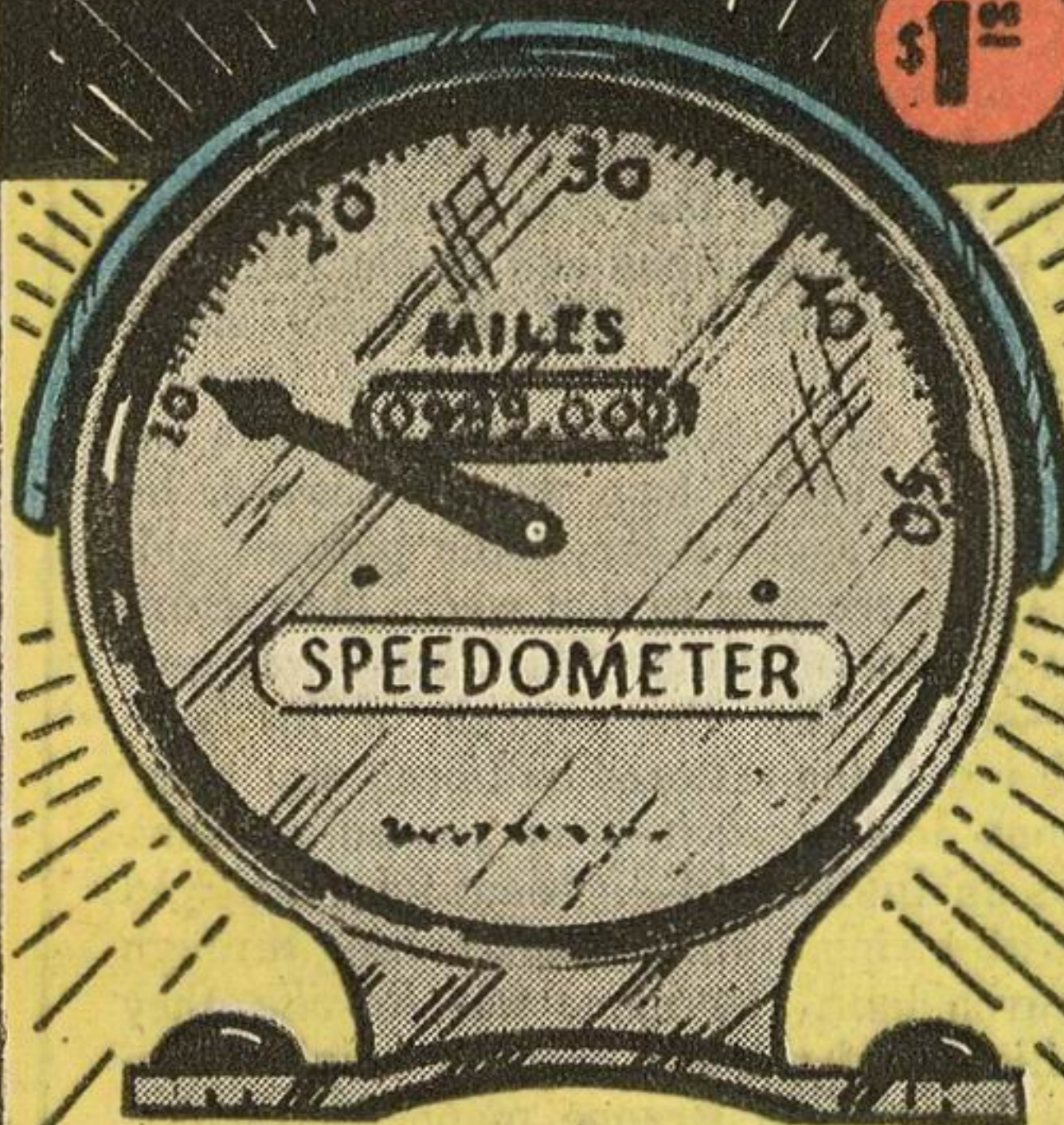
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INDIAN GIRL

Anthony Black was vastly excited by America. This was his first trip from England, and he had been promising it to himself for a long time. Actually, his ancestors had been pioneer stock-in the new world, until his grandfather had gone to England to live on an estate he had inherited there. And now Anthony, although dazzled by the fast-paced whirl of New York, couldn't wait until he saw the ranch of his ancestors—the wealthy Bar-X spread in New Mexico, still owned by the American branch of the Black family.

The Bar-X was everything he had hoped—a typical western ranch that was in many ways a throwback to the old days. Anthony was received hospitably, and with considerable wonder, too. He found out why when they brought him to the portrait gallery contained within the sprawling old ranchhouse. There, on the wall, hung a painting of the original Anthony Black, who had founded the ranch. The features of the man within the portrait were crystal clear, for it had just been restored—and those features were identical to those of the modern-day Anthony!

"Guess I must be a throwback!" laughed Tony. "By the way—what's the empty space next to the old boy's picture?" He was informed that it marked the place where the portrait of old Anthony Black's wife had hung—that the picture was also being restored, and was due back shortly. He proceeded to forget the matter, and devoted himself to enjoyment.

Horseback riding came within this category. It was the sport of which Anthony was fondest—he was indeed an able equestrian. Whenever he took out a horse, however, he was warned to stay within sight of the ranch, so that he shouldn't become lost. For a week, he contented himself with this, but finally, he grew restive. After all, he wasn't a child—he wouldn't lose himself *that* easily! He determined to strike out further into the beautiful rangeland, taking careful bearings so that he could return without any trouble. Off he set, riding further and further from the ranch. Into defiles and canyons he rode, and the country grew increasingly wilder and more desolate. He was far from the Bar-X when a buzzing rattlesnake caused his horse to rear suddenly. He was thrown, rendered unconscious by his head hitting a rock.

When he finally came to, he was alone,

without a horse. His fall had jarred loose all memory of the way back, and he was as thoroughly lost as a man could be. Desperately he wandered, hoping that a searching-party would find him—in a land where there was neither food nor water. He became weak, delirious, and finally fell in his tracks. He knew, as he sank into the mists of unconsciousness, that death was near; that he didn't have a chance. He was amazed to come to, some time later. Someone was wiping his brow with a wet cloth—why, it was an Indian girl—a beautiful, dark-eyed girl clad in traditional garb, with a single white streak cutting through her raven hair.

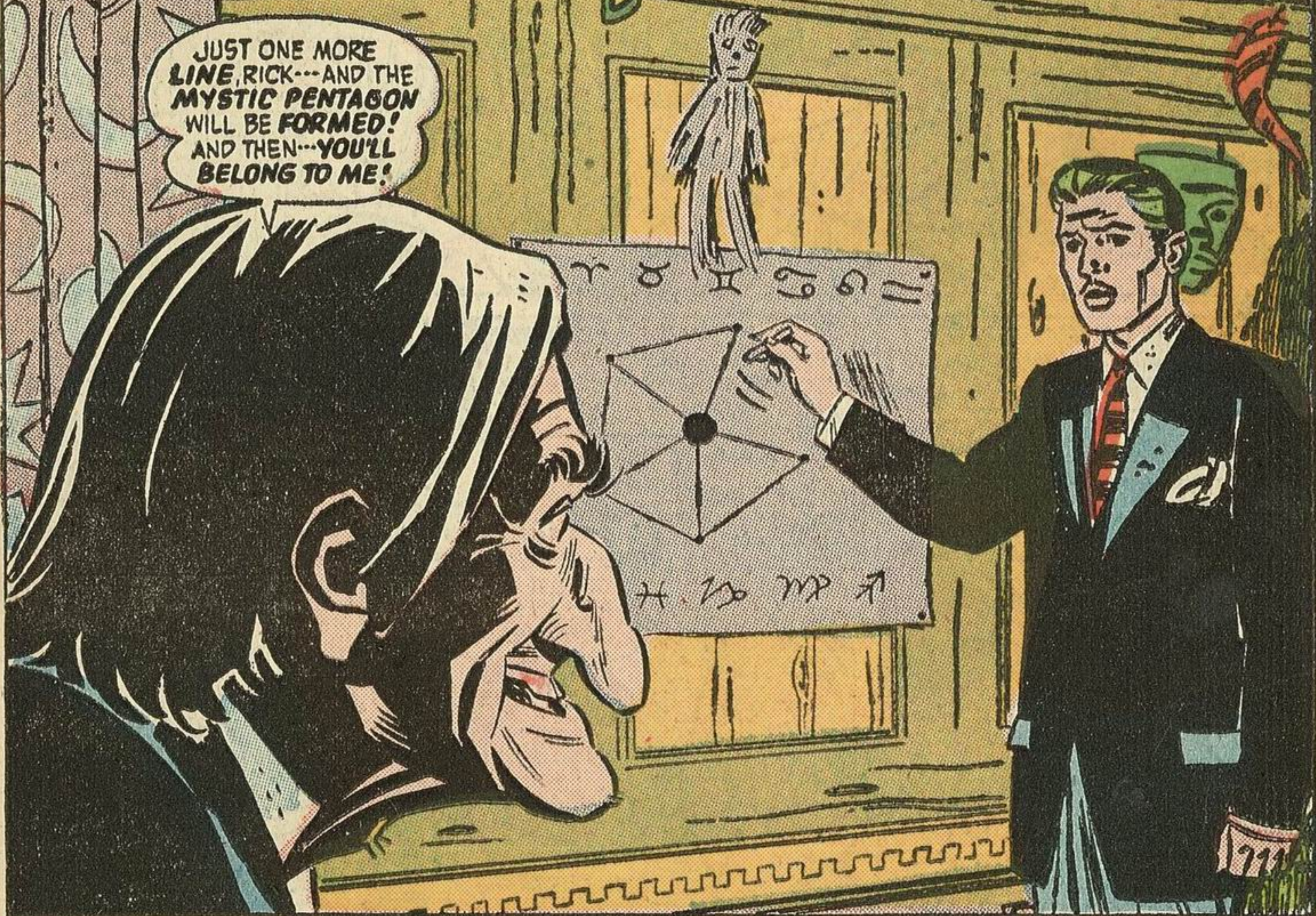
"Anthony," she whispered—perhaps she had learned his name during his delirium. Her name, she told him, was *Ravella*, and she cared for him tenderly, bringing him food and drink and caring for his injuries until he had recovered. Then, she secured a horse for him, and galloped at his side, leading him back towards the Bar-X.

"I don't know how to thank you," said Anthony, turning towards her as the ranch came into sight. Then he paused in amazement, because the girl had disappeared. She was gone, as if she had faded into thin air. There was nothing to do but ride on to the Bar-X, where, as you can imagine, they made much of him. He didn't tell them about *Ravella*, knowing that he couldn't explain her disappearance, and that they would probably think him still delirious and raving. He had been rescued—so he told them—by sheep herders. And that was that, except for one thing. The day before he left the ranch on the first leg of his long trip homeward, he walked once again through the portrait gallery. The space next to that where the picture of the original Anthony Black hung was now filled—apparently, the portrait of his wife which was being restored had been sent back. Anthony looked at it—and gasped audibly. It was an Indian girl—a beautiful, dark-eyed girl with a single white streak cutting through her raven hair. Her name was *Ravella*, they told him. And she had met the original Anthony Black in a strange manner—rescuing him in the wilds, lost and unconscious—then nursing him back to health and bringing him back to the Bar-X. It was a strange story, and the present-day Anthony wondered about it for years thereafter. Wouldn't you?

IN ANCIENT TIMES, MANY MATHEMATICIANS WERE OFTEN CONSIDERED STUDENTS OF THE OCCULT. NUMBERS, SIGNS, SYMBOLS---ALL WERE THOUGHT TO HAVE MAGICAL PROPERTIES! DOWN THE AGES MEN HAVE DELVED INTO THESE DARK MYSTERIES, HOPING MOST OF ALL TO SOLVE THE SECRET OF---

The MYSTIC PENTAGON!

JUST ONE MORE LINE, RICK---AND THE MYSTIC PENTAGON WILL BE FORMED! AND THEN---YOU'LL BELONG TO ME!



THE SWINDLER RICK HARRIS WAS JUST COMPLETING HIS THIRD PRISON SENTENCE---

ONE MORE RAP, HARRIS, AND YOU'LL BE PUT AWAY FOR KEEPS---AS A "FOUR-TIME LOSER"! YOU'RE YOUNG ENOUGH TO START A NEW LIFE---AND SMART ENOUGH TO MAKE SOMETHING OF YOURSELF!

FORGET THE ADVICE, WARDEN!



JUST OUTSIDE, MEMBERS OF HIS OLD MOB WERE WAITING FOR HIM---

NICE TO HAVE YOU OUT AGAIN, BOSS!

IT'LL BE JUST LIKE OLD TIMES --- WITH EASY PICKINGS!



BUT WHILE THE OTHERS SPOKE OF NEW DEALS AND SMART ANGLES, RICK BROODED...

I CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE OF BRUSHING UP WITH THE LAW AGAIN! WHAT CAN I DO? I'VE GOT NO PROFESSION, NO WAY TO MAKE A LIVING, AND MONEY'S THE ONE THING THAT COUNTS MOST WITH ME!

HE LEFT HIS HENCHMEN IN THE CITY, TELLING THEM THAT HE INTENDED TO GO STRAIGHT! IN A GRIMY HOTEL ROOM, HE PACED THE FLOOR FOR DAYS...

WHAT'S THE ANSWER? GETTING A JOB'S HARD FOR ME! IF ONLY I COULD SCHEME UP SOME **ANGLE**... SOMETHING PERFECTLY **SAFE**! ...WONDER WHO **THAT** CAN BE?

KNOCK!
KNOCK!

THE VISITOR WAS A COMPLETE STRANGER, A STRANGE-LOOKING MAN WHO SEEMED TO KNOW **EVERYTHING** ABOUT RICK...

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR CAREER FOR A LONG TIME, AND I HAVE A CERTAIN PROPOSITION I **DON'T** THINK YOU'LL TURN DOWN!

I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO LISTEN TO **BUSINESS**, MISTER!

THERE WAS SOMETHING **HYPNOTIC** ABOUT THE OLD MAN'S VOICE, A PECULIAR BRIGHTNESS IN HIS EYES WHICH COMPELLED RICK TO LISTEN INTENTLY...

I AM CALLED **MORITIUS**! I AM A **SORCERER**, A PRACTICER OF THE **BLACK ARTS**... AND MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCCULT HAS ALLOWED ME TO LIVE FOR **CENTURIES**!

THIS GUY'S COMPLETELY **CRAZY**!

I KNOW YOU ARE **DOUBTFUL**! COME WITH ME TO MY **HOME**, WHERE I CAN EXPLAIN BETTER!

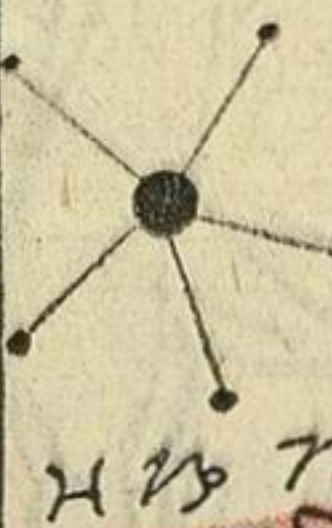
WHY NOT? I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE!

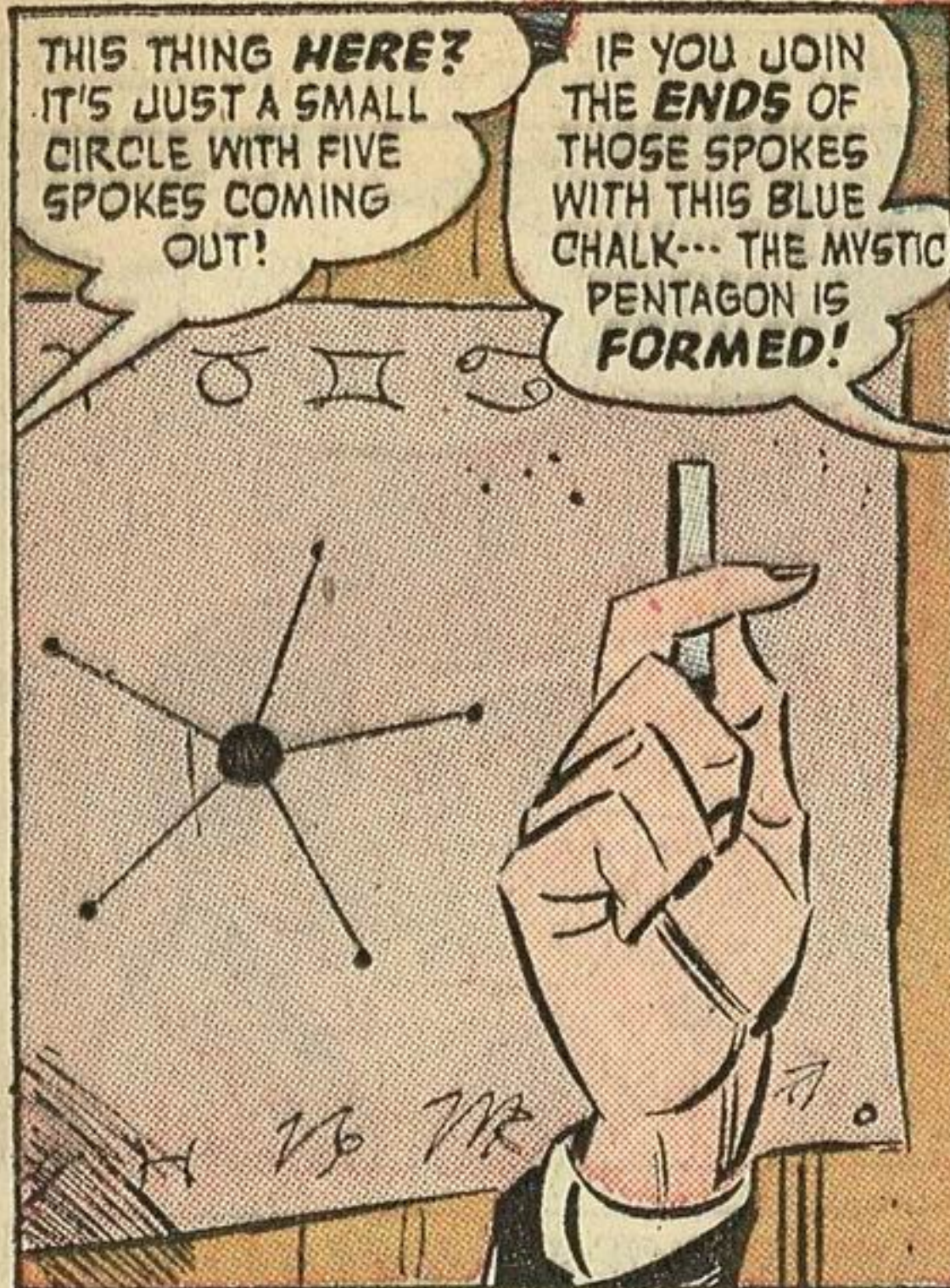
SAY, THIS IS QUITE A LAYOUT!

HARDLY THE HOME OF A **MADMAN**, EH? COME, WE MUST GO TO MY **INNER SANCTUM**! THERE YOU WILL SEE THE **MYSTIC PENTAGON**!

IN A ROOM HUNG WITH WEIRD SIGNS AND SYMBOLS...

YOU'VE NEVER **HEARD** OF THE **MYSTIC PENTAGON**, OF COURSE... BUT I AM THE ONLY MAN IN HISTORY TO **SOLVE** ITS MYSTERIES! THERE IT IS ON THAT PARCHMENT... **LOOK CLOSELY**!





THIS THING **HERE?**
IT'S JUST A SMALL
CIRCLE WITH FIVE
SPOKES COMING
OUT!

IF YOU JOIN
THE **ENDS** OF
THOSE SPOKES
WITH THIS BLUE
CHALK... THE MYSTIC
PENTAGON IS
FORMED!



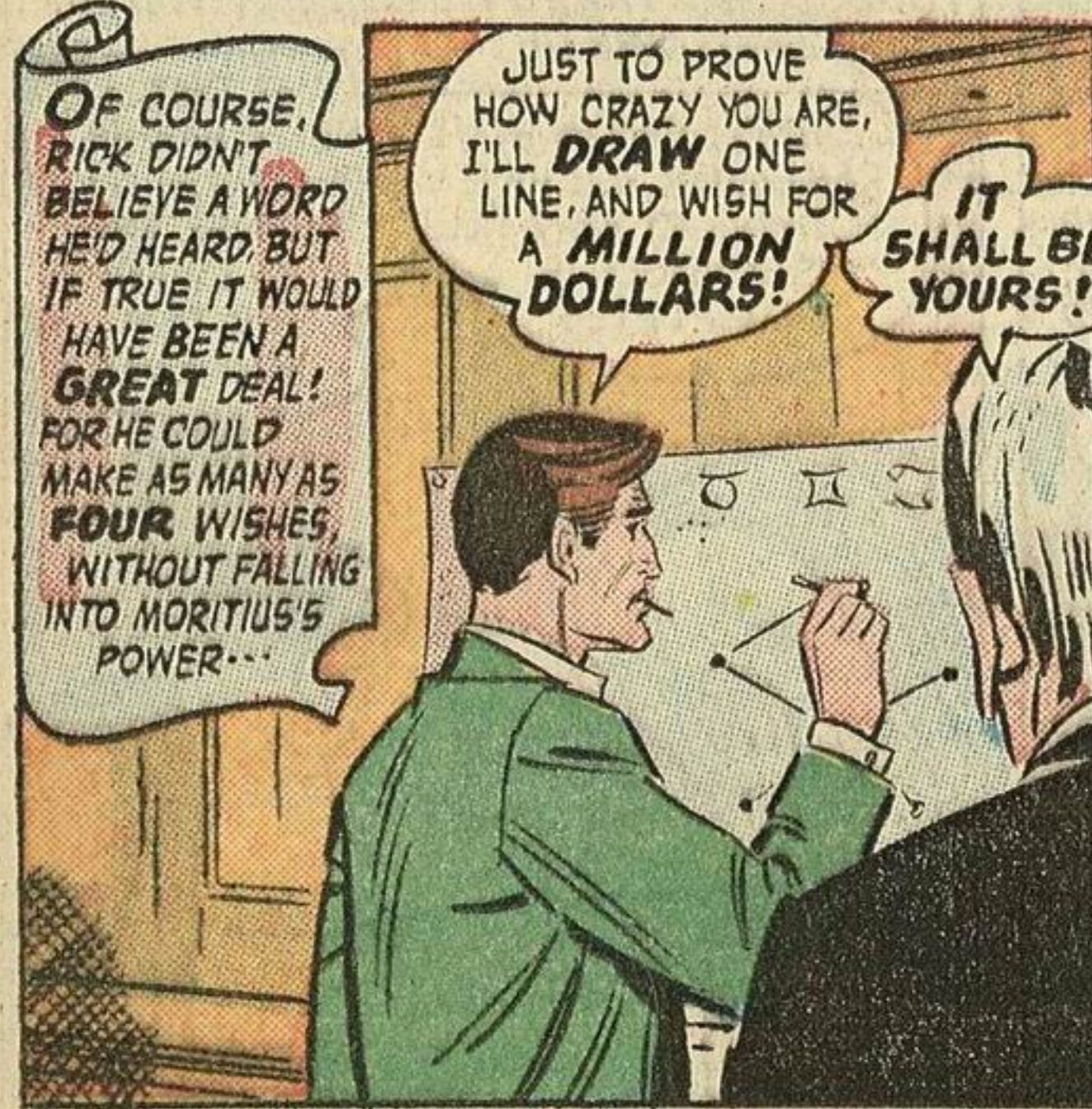
SO WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
WHAT'S A **PENTAGON**, ANYHOW?

IT'S A **FIVE-SIDED**
FIGURE, WHICH HAS
FASCINATED SORCERERS
DOWN THE CENTURIES!
IT TAKES **FIVE LINES**
TO MAKE THE FIGURE,
AND FOR EACH ONE
YOU MAY HAVE **ANY**
WISH YOU
PLEASE!



WHAT IS THIS, A
GAG? WHAT
HAPPENS AFTER
THE PENTAGON
IS **COMPLETE?**

SHOULD YOU MAKE
FIVE WISHES, YOU
BELONG TO ME!
I TAKE OVER YOUR
REMAINING LIFE
SPAN, USING YOUR
BODY AS MY OWN,
WHILE I DISCARD
THIS OLD ONE!



OF COURSE,
RICK DIDN'T
BELIEVE A WORD
HE'D HEARD, BUT
IF TRUE IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN A
GREAT DEAL!
FOR HE COULD
MAKE AS MANY AS
FOUR WISHES,
WITHOUT FALLING
INTO MORITIUS'S
POWER...

JUST TO PROVE
HOW CRAZY YOU ARE,
I'LL **DRAW** ONE
LINE, AND WISH FOR
A **MILLION**
DOLLARS!

IT
SHALL BE
YOURS!



THE BLUE CHALK SEEMED STRANGELY WARM IN RICK'S HAND,
AND AS HE TOUCHED THE PARCHMENT HE FELT A SLIGHT
ELECTRICAL SHOCK! THE MOMENT THE LINE WAS COMPLETE...

WHAT THE...!
WHERE'D THAT
MONEY COME
FROM?

YOU **WISHED**
FOR IT... AND
IT'S **YOURS!**



MORITIUS, HIS EYES GLEAMING WITH SATISFACTION, GAVE
HIM A SUITCASE TO BEAR OFF THE STACKS OF BILLS...

IT...IT **WORKED!**
IT REALLY **WORKED!**
YOU MADE A SUCKER
DEAL, FRIEND... BECAUSE
THIS IS ALL I'LL EVER
NEED!

WE'LL
SEE ABOUT
THAT!



IMMEDIATELY, RICK TOOK THE FINEST SUITE IN THE CITY'S
BEST HOTEL! HE BEGAN LIVING LAVISHLY, SPENDING MONEY
RECKLESSLY...

YOU'RE SURE IN THE
CHIPS AGAIN, BOSS!
WHAT'S YOUR
ANGLE?

JUST USING THE
OLD NOODLE, MICKEY!
BUT IT'S A
PRIVATE
DEAL!

AT THAT MOMENT, ONE OF RICK'S LONGTIME UNDERWORLD RIVALS PASSED...

THERE GOES BIG JIM DODDS, BOSS! IF YOU ASK ME, ONE OF **HIS** BOYS SANG TO THE POLICE TO GET YOU YOUR LAST STRETCH!

DON'T I KNOW IT? IF ONLY I COULD GET **EVEN** WITH THAT GUY!

RICK DESPERATELY WANTED REVENGE, BUT HE DARED NOT TAKE IT! NEXT DAY...

YOU'RE BACK SOONER THAN I **THOUGHT**!

AND SO RICK HARRIS DREW THE **SECOND** LINE! AT BREAKFAST THE NEXT MORNING...

HEH-HEH! THE PAPERS ARE FULL OF THE WAY THE **FBI** GRABBED BIG JIM DODDS LAST NIGHT ON A FEDERAL RAP! THEY SAY IT'LL BE A 20 YEAR STRETCH! FUNNY... IN THE LONG RUN, THE LAW SEEMS TO CATCH UP WITH **EVERY-BODY**!

TO RICK'S AMAZE-
MENT, HE SOON FOUND THAT HIS FORTUNE WAS ACTUALLY BEGINNING TO RUN LOW...

30 G's DOWN THE DRAIN IN ONE AFTER-NOON! WHAT A **SAP** I'VE BEEN! I SHOULD HAVE ASKED MORITIUS FOR A LOT **MORE** THAN A MERE MILLION!

RICK HAD COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN HIS WILL POWER! HE HAD **THREE** WISHES LEFT... WHY NOT USE AT LEAST **ONE** OF THEM?

EXCELLENT, MY BOY! REMEMBER, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR TILL THE PENTAGON IS **COMPLETE**!

AND THAT'LL NEVER HAPPEN, I GUARANTEE IT! BECAUSE **THIS** TIME, I'M ASKING FOR **TEN MILLION**!

CUNNINGLY, RICK OPENED UP ACCOUNTS IN DOZENS OF BANKS AROUND THE CITY, TO DISGUISE HIS POSSESSION OF SUCH A HUGE FORTUNE...

BANKS ARE THE SAFEST PLACE FOR IT! BESIDES, I GET **INTEREST**! MORITIUS THINKS HE'S GOT A **SUCKER** HERE... HEH-HEH! WE'LL **SEE** WHO'S THE **SUCKER**! HE'LL NEVER OWN **ME**!

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER...

I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT...

THAT GIRL... SHE'S SO **BEAUTIFUL**! I'VE GOT TO MEET HER!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

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SUSAN OLIVER AROUSED IN HIM FEELINGS HE'D NEVER KNOWN BEFORE...HE SHOWERED HER WITH ATTENTION AND GIFTS...

AN EMERALD NECK-LACE! BUT I COULDN'T ACCEPT IT, RICK...IT'S MUCH TOO EXPENSIVE!

BUT I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT, BABY! PLEASE...FOR ME...



SHE WAS A VERY SWEET GIRL, STARRY-EYED AND INNOCENT, AND SOON HE WAS HEAD OVER HEELS...

YOU DO LIKE ME, DON'T YOU, HONEY? I MEAN...JUST A LITTLE BIT...?

I'M VERY FOND OF YOU, RICK...THOUGH I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE!



WHY NOT? I LOVE YOU... I WANT TO MARRY YOU!

I...I'M FLATTERED... BUT CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE? YOU'VE BEEN TO JAIL THREE TIMES...A FOURTH WOULD BE FOR KEEPS! I CAN'T LIVE WITH SUCH A SWORD OVER MY HEAD!



HAVING A REAL HOME WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE! BESIDES, RICK...AND I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU... WHAT SORT OF MAN ARE YOU? A CRIMINAL... WHO'S NEVER DONE A DECENT THING...ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HIMSELF...SELFISH...WHO'S THROWN AWAY HIS TALENTS...



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, RICK HARRIS SAW HIMSELF FOR WHAT HE REALLY WAS, AND THE PICTURE HURT...HURT BADLY...

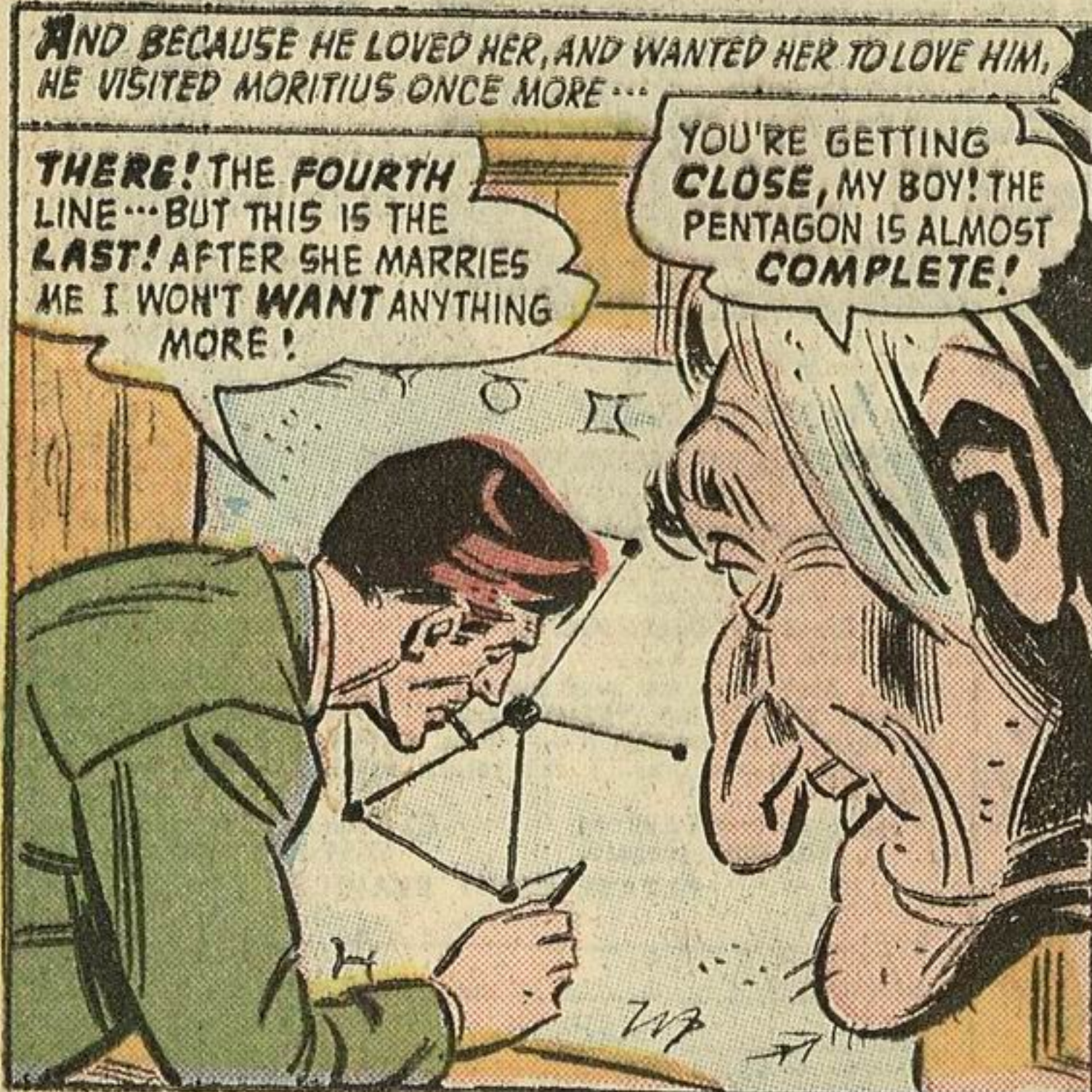
SHE'S RIGHT...I'VE BEEN A NO-GOOD ALL MY LIFE...EVIL! HOW MANY RAPS HAVE I BEATEN BECAUSE I HAD A GOOD LAWYER? CAN I THINK OF ONE DECENT THING I'VE EVER DONE?...BUT I LOVE THAT GIRL...LOVE HER...



AND BECAUSE HE LOVED HER, AND WANTED HER TO LOVE HIM, HE VISITED MORITIUS ONCE MORE...

THERE! THE FOURTH LINE...BUT THIS IS THE LAST! AFTER SHE MARRIES ME I WON'T WANT ANYTHING MORE!

YOU'RE GETTING CLOSE, MY BOY! THE PENTAGON IS ALMOST COMPLETE!



THAT NIGHT...

I'M SO SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID, RICK! I'VE THOUGHT IT OVER...I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO GIVE YOU UP! I...I WANT TO MARRY YOU!

THAT PENTAGON SURE WORKS FAST! POOR SUSAN, SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER!



IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE HAPPIEST NIGHT OF RICK'S LIFE, BUT SOMEHOW... HE WAS TROUBLED...

WE'LL BE SO **HAPPY**, DARLING... JUST THE TWO OF US...

SHE'S SO SWEET... SO **GOOD**... SHE DESERVES BETTER THAN ME! IT'S HORRIBLE THE WAY SHE'S IN MY POWER WITHOUT REALIZING IT!

IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS THEY WERE INSEPARABLE! THEY MADE WEDDING PREPARATIONS... HE HELPED HER SELECT A **TROUSSEAU**...

IT'S **BREATH-TAKING!**

HOW CAN I **DO** THIS TO HER? SHE'S BEEN **SWINDLED** INTO THIS THING!

BRIDAL SHOPPE

HE **BEGAN** BROODING MORE AND MORE ABOUT IT, THOUGHT OF ALL THE EVIL THINGS HE'D DONE WITHOUT PAYING THE PENALTY...

IF I **MARRY** HER, IT'LL BE THE WORST CRIME I'VE EVER COMMITTED! THAT **BLACK-HEARTED** MORITIUS... ONLY **HE** GOES UNPUNISHED... HOW WILL THE LAW EVER CATCH UP WITH **HIM**?

AFTER A SLEEPLESS NIGHT, HE SAW THINGS CLEARLY AT LAST...

I CAN'T DO IT TO HER... I'D HATE MYSELF TOO MUCH! I LOVE HER, ALWAYS WILL, BUT FOR ONCE I'LL DO THE **RIGHT** THING! BUT FIRST, THERE'S THIS **LETTER** TO WRITE!

AFTER MAILING THE LETTER, RICK VISITED MORITIUS FOR THE LAST TIME... TO DRAW THE **FATAL FIFTH LINE**!

I WISH THAT SUSAN SHOULD NO LONGER LOVE ME, BUT **FORGET** ME... SO SHE'LL BE FREE TO LEAD THE SORT OF LIFE SHE DESERVES!

WHAT?! AN **UNSELFISH** WISH? YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS'LL MEAN?

RICK REALIZED ONLY TOO WELL! HE KNEW THAT IF HE DREW THE LINE, HE WOULD BECOME MORITIUS'S **SLAVE**... THAT HIS PERSONALITY AND WILL POWER WOULD CEASE TO EXIST...

IT DOESN'T MATTER... **THERE!** I... I'VE **DONE** IT!

HAAA-HA-HA! THIS WAS EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!

A BLAZE OF LIGHT BURST FROM THE MYSTIC PENTAGON, AND AT THAT MOMENT, RICK HARRIS WAS **NO MORE**...

AND NOW I TAKE OVER THE SHELL OF HIS BODY... WHILE DISCARDING THIS OLD ONE! HIS REMAINING YEARS SHALL BE **MINE!** HE WAS A **FOOL**... LIKE ALL THE OTHERS DOWN THE CENTURIES!

MOMENTS LATER, THE TRANSFERENCE HAD BEEN MADE...

HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO HAVE THIS VIGOROUS YOUNG BODY INSTEAD OF THAT **OLD ONE**! THIS CALLS FOR A **CELEBRATION!**



IMMENSELY PLEASED WITH HIMSELF, THE SORCERER, NOW OCCUPYING THE SHELL OF WHAT HAD BEEN RICK, LEFT THE MANSION! BUT IN THE STREET OUTSIDE...

OKAY, HARRIS... DON'T START ANY TROUBLE! YOU'RE COMING ALONG WITH **US!**

WH-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?



I DEMAND MY RIGHTS! YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO ARREST ME!

THINK NOT? YOU'LL FIND OUT AT **HEADQUARTERS!** WE GOT A LETTER FROM SOME **STOOL PIGEON** TELLING US WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO!



THE CHIEF OF POLICE WAS HOLDING THE UNSIGNED LETTER WHICH RICK HAD WRITTEN...

WHOEVER THE **STOOLIE** WAS, HE TELLS US **EVERYTHING!** YOU'VE GOT **TEN MILLION BUCKS** SCATTERED IN BANKS AROUND TOWN... AND YOU'VE **NEVER PAID INCOME TAX ON IT!** WE'VE ALREADY CHECKED!

NO... THIS CAN'T BE! I'VE BEEN **TRICKED!**



THOUGH HE HIRED THE BEST LAWYERS TO DEFEND HIM, THE CASE WAS OPEN AND SHUT! THE SENTENCE WAS AUTOMATIC...

AS A **FOUR-TIME LOSER**, THE PENALTY IS **LIFE!** YOU **DESERVE THIS**, HARRIS!

FOR... **LIFE?** NO... NO! I... I'LL **PERISH!**



AND SO, AFTER CENTURIES, MORITIUS WAS CAUGHT AT LAST IN HIS OWN EVIL WEB! AS DETECTIVES TOOK HIM AWAY FOR THE LONG RIDE TO THE PENITENTIARY...



L-LAUGHTER... **TRIUMPHANT LAUGHTER** ... COMING OUT OF NOWHERE! IT... IT'S **HIM...** **RICK HARRIS...** LAUGHING BECAUSE HE'S **BEATEN ME!**

THE END!

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From **YOUR EDITOR** - to **YOU!**

Hi, readers of "Forbidden Worlds"! At this meeting, we're going to deliberately place ourselves on the defensive. We keep on getting occasional letters from suspicious people who charge us with printing only letters complimentary to this magazine. We might say that it isn't our fault that readers everywhere seem to like what we're doing. That isn't to say that we don't get criticism once in a while, however. And far from trying to hide this fact, we intend to devote this month's editorial page to such criticism—in each case presenting our side of it. We want your reaction to what we're presenting here. Who's in the right—our critics or us? Send your letters to The Editor, "Forbidden Worlds," 347 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. All set? Let's go!

"Dear Editor:—

For a long time, I've been of the opinion that 'Forbidden Worlds' had the greatest art and stories on the market, but now I'm mad. Why? Your covers. On several occasions, I've found them to be misleading, containing ideas and material which just don't exist within the story itself. I don't think this is fair, and I'd like to hear what you've got to say about it.

—Vincent Allardyce, Asbury Park, N.J."

Okay, Mr. Allardyce—come out swinging! Once in a while, there may be slight differences between the cover and what actually goes on inside—so what? Would you prefer us to repeat an actual scene from the story? Our way, we feel, has far more interest and imagination—and it's always at the very least suggested by the story! What do you other readers think?

"Dear Editor:—

You people are profiteers, and it's a wonder readers don't realize it. I can remember when a comic mag had 48 pages.

Now you're putting out 32 pages for the same dough. Not for me—I'm swearing off!

—Arthur Merola, Indianapolis, Ind."

Sorry if we're losing you, Mr. Merola. Sorry for you altogether, since you can't be eating much these days—look at the way food costs have gone up! Clothes, too—unless you're wearing a barrel! By the way—did you know that comics magazines are the only things in the country that have never increased their price?

"Dear Editor:—

You should be ashamed to put out such a disgraceful magazine. There should be laws to protect the public against lurid, sensational stories.

—Martha R. Goodman, Nashville, Tenn."

There ought to be laws against bluenoses who don't know what they're talking about, too. "Forbidden Worlds" is a decent publication guided by decent standards. Its stories concern imaginative adventure, interestingly portrayed. Its standards are far stricter than those governing movies, radio and television and are subject to the review of the Comics Code Authority. 'Nuff said?

"Dear Editor:—

How's about jazzing up things on your end? What me and my friends want are real punchy stories about vampires and zombies and werewolves. When are you going to get wise to yourself and put 'em in your mag?

—Bob Wilscezi, Dubuque, Iowa."

This letter's really funny, coming right after the one above. Can't you people get together? We've answered questions like yours before, Mr. Wilscezi, but here goes again. "Forbidden Worlds" has progressed far beyond the stale drivel that you seem to want. We owe our readers far better fare than that, and we're giving it to them. See such stories as "The Land That Time Forgot," "Rosie and Red Russia," "The Man Without Feelings" and "Take It Easy!" That's all—we rest our case!

VOODOO and DR. JAMES!

FOR 20 YEARS YOU HAVE MOCKED MY POWER...TRIED TO DESTROY MY HOLD OVER MY PEOPLE! NOW YOU SHALL FEEL MY WRATH! **BEWARE, DR. JAMES...** FOR WITHIN **THREE DAYS** YOU SHALL PAY THE **SUPREME PRICE!**

ONCE, LONG BEFORE, I'D HAVE LAUGHED IN **MÈRE KARANA'S** FACE! I WOULD HAVE WALKED FROM HER CABIN ON THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP WITH MY HEAD HIGH...CONFIDENT SHE COULDN'T HARM ME! BUT MUCH HAD HAPPENED DURING MY 20 YEARS IN **HAITI**...AND NOW I KNEW I WAS **DOOMED!**

I WAS A YOUNG, IDEALISTIC DOCTOR WHEN I FIRST SAW THE SHORES OF THAT ANCIENT ISLAND IN THE CARIBBEAN...

SO THAT'S **HAITI!** HADN'T EXPECTED IT TO LOOK SO **MODERN!**

IT'S CIVILIZED ON THE **COAST**, ALL RIGHT... BUT WAIT TILL YOU GET INTO THE **INTERIOR!**

I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE PLEASED WITH THE ASSIGNMENT THE ISLAND HEALTH SERVICE HAD WAITING...

YOU'RE TO SET UP A HOSPITAL **HERE**...IN THE **INTERIOR!** DISEASE WILL BE JUST **ONE** OF YOUR PROBLEMS...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY **THAT?**

I STILL REMEMBER THE CURIOUSLY GRIM TONE OF HIS VOICE, AND HOW IDIOTIC I THOUGHT HIS WARNING...

THESE NATIVES ARE RIDDLED WITH **SUPERSTITION!** THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THE INTERIOR IS **VOODOO**, AND I ADVISE YOU TO **RESPECT IT!**

OF COURSE, SIR... I UNDERSTAND!



BUT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND... NOT AT ALL! THE JOURNEY TO THE INTERIOR WAS LONG...

TWO DAYS MORE WE BE THERE! WHITE MAN MEDICINE MUCH WELCOME!

JUST GIVE ME A YEAR OR TWO TO WORK AND EVERYTHING WILL BE SHIPSHAPE!



I WAS YOUNG, TIRELESS AND WELL TRAINED! BEFORE LONG, I'D WON THE CONFIDENCE OF THE NATIVES...

BOY SICK---BIG FEVER! YOU CAN SAVE HIM, DR. JAMES!

I'LL DO MY BEST, TOKIRA!



I COULDN'T HELP BEING PROUD OF MY KNOWLEDGE, PROUD OF THE MODERN SCIENCE I HAD BROUGHT INTO THEIR LIVES...

THE BOY WILL LIVE! MY MEDICINE HAS DESTROYED THE FEVER!

WE SHALL HAVE A GREAT FEAST... TO HONOR YOU!



THEY BROUGHT ME THEIR AILMENTS AND THEIR PROBLEMS... THEY'D ACCEPTED ME COMPLETELY, I THOUGHT! BUT SOON AFTERWARDS...

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY THE CROWD OUTSIDE THE HUT?

OLD M'CHUFI IS WASTING AWAY!



I DIDN'T KNOW THE AWFUL MEANING OF THOSE WORDS... "WASTING AWAY"! HASTILY I ENTERED, ANGRY THAT I HADN'T BEEN CONSULTED...

WHY WASN'T HE BROUGHT TO ME? AM I NOT A DOCTOR?

NO ONE CAN HELP HIM! HE HAS OFFENDED MERE KARANA!



I EXAMINED THE MAN CAREFULLY... UNABLE TO FIND ANYTHING ORGANICALLY WRONG WITH HIM! BUT YET HE WAS PERISHING...

WHO IS MERE KARANA? WHAT DOES SHE HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?

MERE KARANA POSSESSES THE ARTS OF **VOODOO**! IT IS SHE WHO HAS CAUSED HIM TO WASTE AWAY!



I WAS HELPLESS AGAINST OLD M'CHUR'S AFFLICTION... WITHIN HOURS HE WAS GONE! I DECIDED TO VISIT MÈRE KARANA AT ONCE...



UNTIL I CAN LICK **VOODOO**, MY WORK HERE IS A FAILURE! I'M GOING TO FIND OUT HOW IT WORKS...FROM **HER**!

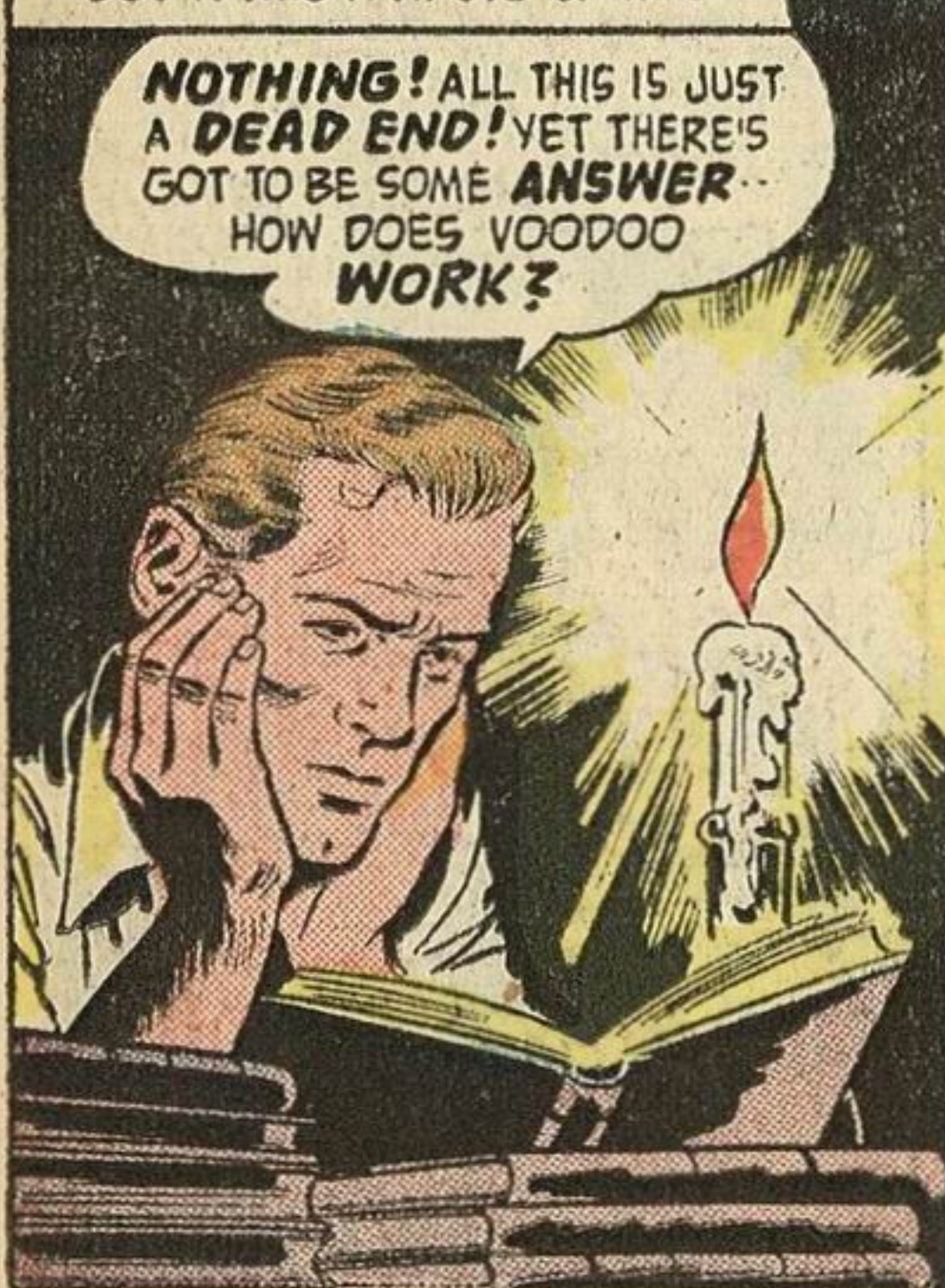
HER APPEARANCE STARTLED ME...I'D NEVER SEEN SUCH AN OLD PERSON! I CAME TO THE POINT, AND MET ONLY COLD HOSTILITY...



I SHALL TELL YOU **NOTHING!** I ADVISE YOU TO LEAVE MY PEOPLE IN **PEACE**...LEST I WREAK VENGEANCE ON **YOU!**

YOU CAN'T HARM ME! BEFORE I'M DONE, THERE'LL BE NO MORE **SUPERSTITION** IN THIS JUNGLE!

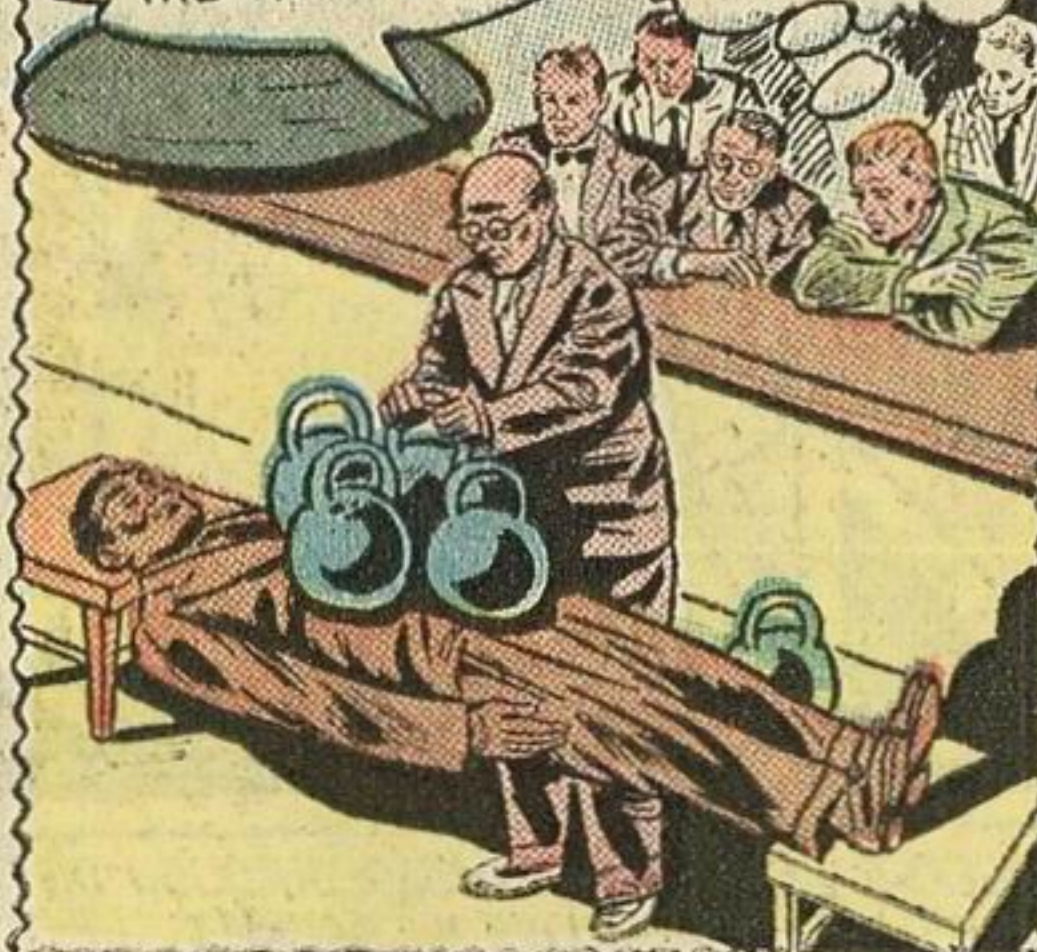
I SENT TO THE COAST FOR EVERYTHING AVAILABLE ON THE SUBJECT OF **VOODOO**... BUT IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME...



NOTHING! ALL THIS IS JUST A **DEAD END!** YET THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME **ANSWER**... HOW DOES **VOODOO** **WORK?**

I THOUGHT BACK THEN TO ALL THE OTHER STRANGE MYSTERIES OF MEDICINE I'D OBSERVED DURING MY MEDICAL STUDIES...

NOW THAT THE SUBJECT IS **HYPNOTIZED**, I CAN PILE 500 POUNDS ON HIS MIDSECTION! SUSPENDED ONLY BY THE TIP OF HIS HEAD AND HIS HEELS... HE CAN SUPPORT THE WEIGHT!



FANTASTIC!

THAT LECTURE MADE A PROFOUND IMPRESSION ON ME...

YES, GENTLEMEN, IF YOU TELL A HYPNOTIZED MAN HE'S JUST BEEN BURNED, A **WELT** CAN APPEAR... IF YOU TELL HIM HE'S BEEN CUT, HE MAY ACTUALLY **BLEED!** WHY THIS SHOULD BE SO, **NOBODY KNOWS!**



AND NOBODY UNDERSTOOD **VOODOO** EITHER! THE YEARS PASSED SLOWLY... TIME AND AGAIN I SAW THE IMPOSSIBLE HAPPEN...



MÈRE KARANA HAS SAID I SHALL **WASTE AWAY!** **SAVE ME, DOCTOR!**

YOU'RE IN **PERFECT HEALTH**, CHEKTI...DON'T **BELIEVE** HER!

BUT I COULD NOT SAVE CHEKTI, NOR ANY OF THE OTHERS! 20 YEARS HAD PASSED, AND I KNEW IN MY HEART THAT **VOODOO** WAS STRONGER THAN I...



YOU NO LONGER **SCOFF** AT MÈRE KARANA...FOR YOU KNOW WHAT SHE **IS!**

HE'S RIGHT... I FEAR HER **MYSELF** NOW!

SINCE I COULD NOT DEFEAT HER, I DECIDED TO ASK HER MERCY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE JUNGLE! 20 YEARS HAD GONE BY, AND YET THIS INCREDIBLY OLD WOMAN WAS STILL VIGOROUS...

NO, I WILL, **NOT** HELP YOU! YOU HAVE MOCKED ME AND **YOUR** TIME HAS COME! NOW **YOU** SHALL **WASTE AWAY!**

M-ME? YOU'RE GOING TO ATTACK ME?

WHY HAD SHE WAITED 20 YEARS TO DESTROY ME, I WONDERED! BY NIGHTFALL, I WAS TOO WEAK TO STAND... A DOCTOR WAS FLOWN IN FROM THE COAST...

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU, MAN... **NOTHING!**

I AM **WASTING AWAY**, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? WITHIN 72 HOURS, I WILL BE **GONE!**

FOR THE NATIVES, THIS WAS THE SUPREME BATTLE... MY MAGIC AGAINST MERE KARANA'S, AND SHE WAS WINNING! I COULD HARDLY SPEAK WHEN A GLIMMER OF HOPE FILTERED INTO MY BRAIN...

DOCTOR... CAN YOU **HYPNOTIZE** ME...?

WHY, YES... OF COURSE! BUT **WHY?**

DO SO!... WHEN I'M HYPNOTIZED, TELL ME I SHALL RECOVER... THAT SHE CAN'T HARM ME... IT'S MY **ONLY CHANCE...**

ALL RIGHT! **ANYTHING** IS WORTH TRYING!

AS THE NATIVES LOOKED ON WITH SUPERSTITIOUS AMAZEMENT...

YOU'RE GOING TO BE **ALL RIGHT!** YOU'RE HEALTHY, VIGOROUS... IN FIVE MINUTES, YOU'LL ARISE FROM THIS BED... **CURED!**

I... AM... HEALTHY... VIGOROUS... SHE CAN'T HARM... ME...

THE YOUNG DOCTOR SNAPPED HIS FINGERS... THE SPELL WAS BROKEN! BUT THE IDEA HE'D IMPLANTED IN MY BRAIN WAS **WORKING**... I FELT STRONG AND FULL OF VITALITY...

I... I FEEL **FINE!** I'M NO LONGER **WASTING AWAY!**

MERE KARANA IS **BEATEN!** HURRY! WE MUST TELL THE PEOPLE!

THE NEWS SPREAD THROUGH THE VILLAGE LIKE WILDFIRE! I ADDRESSED THE WHOLE TRIBE...

HEAR ME, MY PEOPLE... MY MAGIC IS STRONGER THAN HERS! YOU HAVE SEEN... AND MUST **BELIEVE!** SHOULD ANY OF YOU FALL ILL, COME TO ME AND YOU SHALL BE **CURED!**

MERE KARANA PASSED AWAY SOON AFTERWARDS, HER POWER OVER THE PEOPLE BROKEN AT LAST! I WAS SUMMONED TO THE COAST TO EXPLAIN...

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE! VOODOO WORKS BECAUSE PEOPLE **BELIEVE** IN IT! LIKE THE HYPNOTIZED MAN WHO'LL BLEED IF MERELY **TOLD** HE'S OUT, SO CAN A MAN **DIE** IF HE BELIEVES IN VOODOO'S POWER! BUT NOW I KNOW HOW TO **FIGHT IT!**

THAT'S WHY WE WANT YOU HERE! FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE OUR TROUBLE-SHOOTER! WHEREVER VOODOO EXISTS, YOU'LL BE SENT... **UNTIL IT'S STAMPED OUT ON THIS ISLAND ONCE AND FOR ALL!**

The **RUBY ISLE!**

LOOK, KURT! SOMETHING IS GLEAMING ON THE ISLAND... SPARKLING LIKE A **JEWEL!** IS IT POSSIBLE MY THEORY WAS **RIGHT?**

They KNEW ONLY THAT THE ISLAND WAS **TABOO**... AND THAT DANGER LURKED THERE! BUT COULD TWO WORLD-FAMOUS BOTANISTS RESIST THE TEMPTATION OF COLLECTING PLANT SPECIMENS NEVER SEEN BEFORE? THEY'D RISKED THEIR LIVES MANY TIMES FOR SCIENCE... BUT NEVER HAD THEY BEEN CALLED UPON TO FACE SO DIRE A THREAT!

FOR **EMIL SUMNER** AND **KURT HAGEN** IT STARTED AS ANOTHER SPECIMEN-HUNTING EXPEDITION IN THE SOUTH SEAS...

THIS AREA HAS NEVER BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY EXPLORED! HEAD TOWARD THAT ISLAND, KURT!

RIGHT!

FEARLESS, THEY'D WON THEIR REPUTATIONS IN PART BY VISITING REMOTE TROPICAL AREAS, VENTURING WHERE OTHERS FEARED TO TREAD...

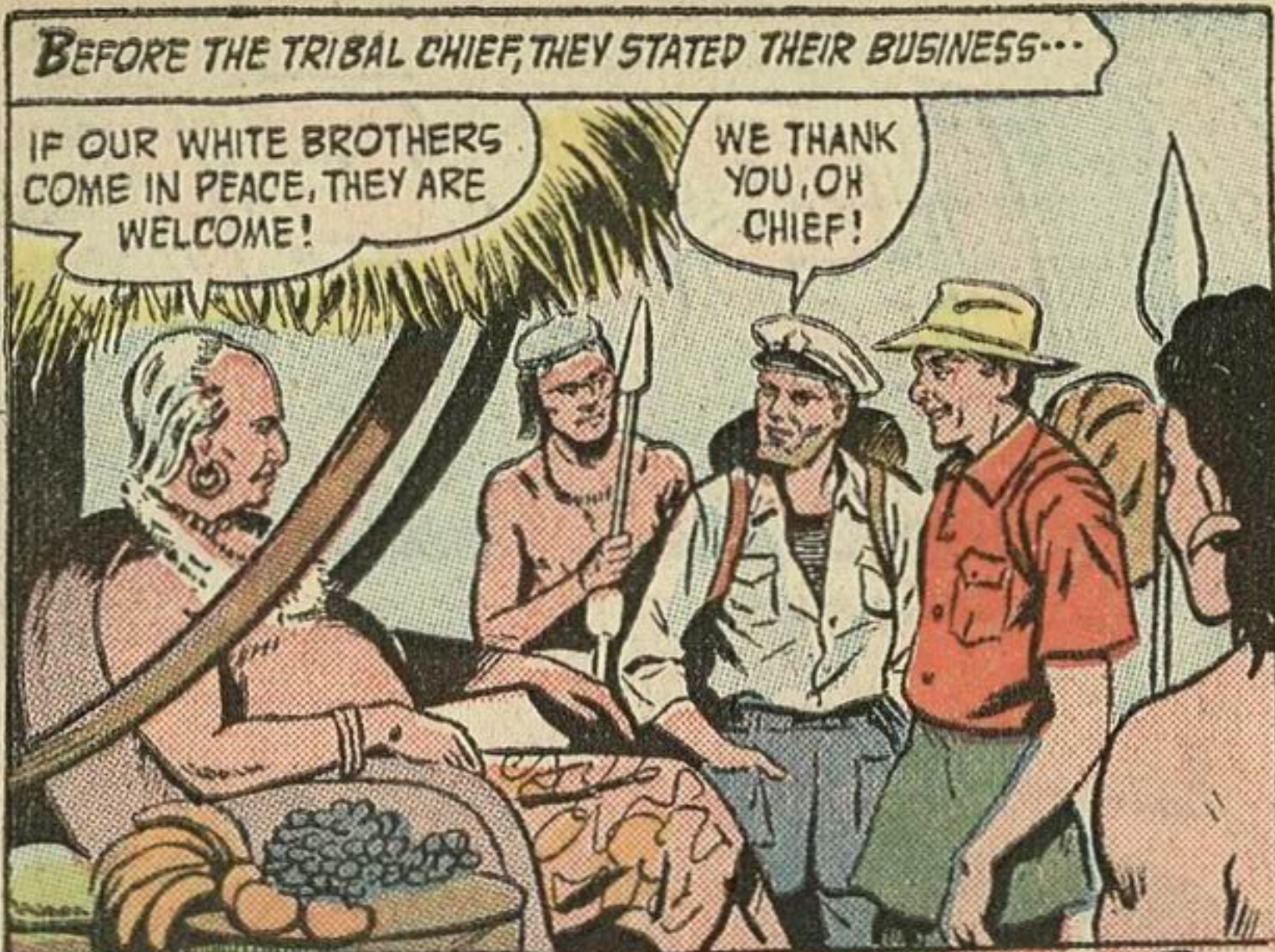
LOOKS LIKE A WELCOMING PARTY! ARE THEY FRIENDLY?

LET'S HOPE SO!

BEFORE THE TRIBAL CHIEF, THEY STATED THEIR BUSINESS...

IF OUR WHITE BROTHERS
COME IN PEACE, THEY ARE
WELCOME!

WE THANK
YOU, OH
CHIEF!



COVERING
THE ISLAND
WITH A
FINE
TOOTH
COMB,
THEY
DISCOVERED
NOTHING
OF
INTEREST...

JUST THE USUAL
THINGS! WE'D
BETTER SAIL
ELSEWHERE!

WE'LL LEAVE
FIRST THING
IN THE
MORNING!



AS THEY PACKED THEIR GEAR...

THE CHIEF BIDS
YOU ATTEND A
FEAST!

FEAST, EH?
MIGHTY GOOD
IDEA!



IMMEDIATELY
UPON ENTER-
ING THE CHIEF'S
ABODE, THEY
WERE
CONFRONTED
WITH AN
ASTOUNDING
SIGHT...

THIS IS OUR
TRIBAL
GOD!

GREAT SCOTT!
IS THAT WREATH OF
LEAVES REAL?



TO THE TWO BOTANISTS THE EVIDENCE
DEFIED CREDIBILITY...

IT...IT **IS** REAL!
BUT I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANYTHING
EVEN **REMOVELY**
RESEMBLING THIS
PLANT STRUCTURE!

WHERE'D
IT **COME**
FROM,
CHIEF?



IT WAS BROUGHT IN THE
TIME OF MY GRANDFATHER
FROM THE ISLAND WHICH
FELL FROM THE SKY! IT IS
TABOO...NO ONE MAY
GO THERE ANYMORE!
MUCH **DANGER**!

THIS WREATH
IS **GENERATIONS**
OLD? BUT THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE...IT
LOOKS AS FRESH
AS IF IT WERE PICKED
YESTERDAY!



INSTANTLY THEIR ONE PURPOSE WAS
TO DISCOVER THE **LOCATION** OF THE
ISLAND...

YOU'VE **GOT** TO
TELL US! YOU
DON'T REALIZE
HOW IMPORTANT
THIS IS TO
SCIENCE!

IT IS
FORBIDDEN!
FOR YOUR OWN
GOOD I WILL
NOT TELL YOU!



FRUSTRATED, THEY RESORTED TO
BRIBING ONE OF THE NATIVES...

SEE? MAGIC FIRE! IT IS
YOURS... IF YOU TELL US
WHERE TO FIND THE
ISLAND WHICH
FELL FROM THE
SKY!

GIVE...
AND I WILL
SPEAK!



TREMENDOUSLY EXCITED THEY SET
SAIL, FOLLOWING THE NATIVE'S
DIRECTIONS EXACTLY...

THIS MAY BE OUR
GREATEST
DISCOVERY YET!
IS IT POSSIBLE
THERE'S A REAL
METEORIC
ISLAND?

WHO KNOWS?
JUST THINK,
THERE MAY
EVEN BE
GROWTHS BROUGHT
FROM OUTER SPACE
IN THE FORM OF
SEEDS!



FOR TWO DAYS THEY SAILED, AND THEY WERE
JUST BEGINNING TO WONDER WHETHER THEY
WERE ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE WHEN...

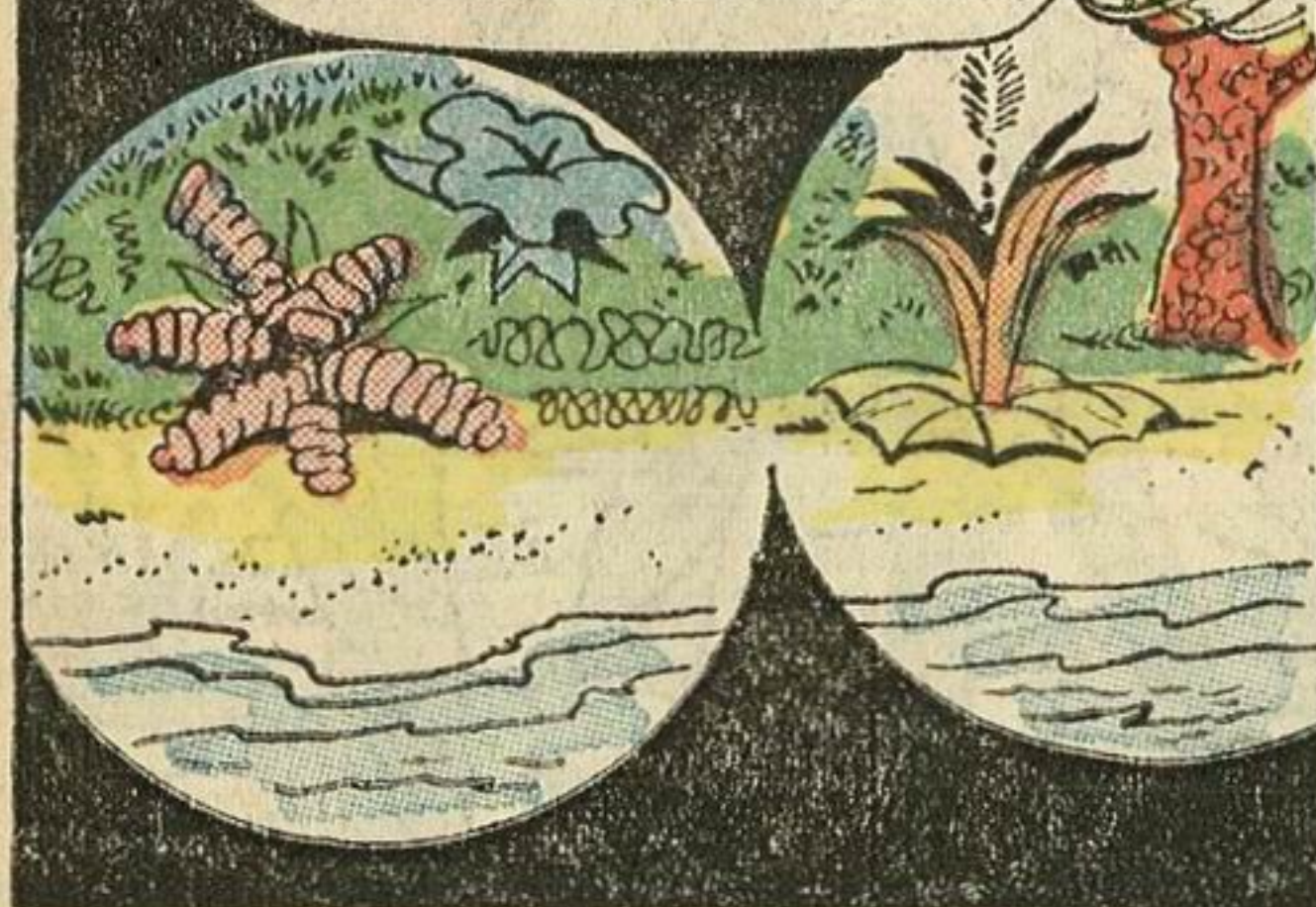
LAND! JUST
WHERE HE SAID
IT WOULD BE!

I CAN'T
WAIT TO
SET FOOT
THERE!



EVEN FROM A DISTANCE, THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT
OF THE IMMENSITY OF THE DISCOVERY AWAITING THEM...

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S LIKE A **NEW WORLD!**



AS THEY APPROACHED, THE SPECTACLE BECAME EVEN MORE
INCREDIBLE...

LET'S PULL THE
BOAT UP ON THE
BEACH AND START
EXPLORING!

HOW WILL OUR
COLLEAGUES
BELIEVE THIS...
WHEN I CAN'T
BELIEVE MY
OWN EYES?



WHO KNOWS WHAT
TO START COLLECTING
FIRST? **EVERYTHING**
IS A NEW SPECIES!

AND WHO KNOWS
WHAT'S FURTHER
INLAND? **COME
ON!**



LEAVES,
STEMS,
FLOWERS...
EVERYTHING
PROVED
FANTASTIC!
IN THEIR
EXCITEMENT
THEY MOVED
FURTHER
AND
FURTHER
FROM THE
SHORE
LINE...

HAVE YOU NOTICED, EMIL? THERE'S
NO **ANIMAL** LIFE OF ANY KIND
ON THIS ISLAND... NOT EVEN AN
INSECT!

YES... YOU'RE
RIGHT! BUT NOTHING
CAN SURPRISE ME
ABOUT **THIS**
PLACE!



TEN MINUTES PASSED...
TWENTY...AND THEY BOTH
FELT FATIGUED...

FUNNY HOW **WARM** THE
EARTH IS...MY FEET ARE
BURNING! THINK I'LL
WALK BAREFOOT!

LET'S NOT TAKE
CHANCES! A CUT
ON THE FOOT IN THE
TROPICS CAN BE
SERIOUS BUSINESS!



THEY PLODDED ON... MY FEET ARE STARTING
TO FEEL LIKE **LEAD!**
THE GROUND'S STICKY...

IT'S LIKE WALKING
THROUGH GLUE! LET'S
SIT DOWN AND **REST!**



THE NATIVES SAY
THIS ISLAND FELL
FROM THE SKY! IF
SO, THIS GIVES US
SOME IDEA OF
THE LIFE FORMS
IN **SPACE!**

LET'S GO BACK TO
THE BEACH! I WANT
TO DUNK MY FEET
IN **COLD**
WATER!



WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?
LET'S GO!

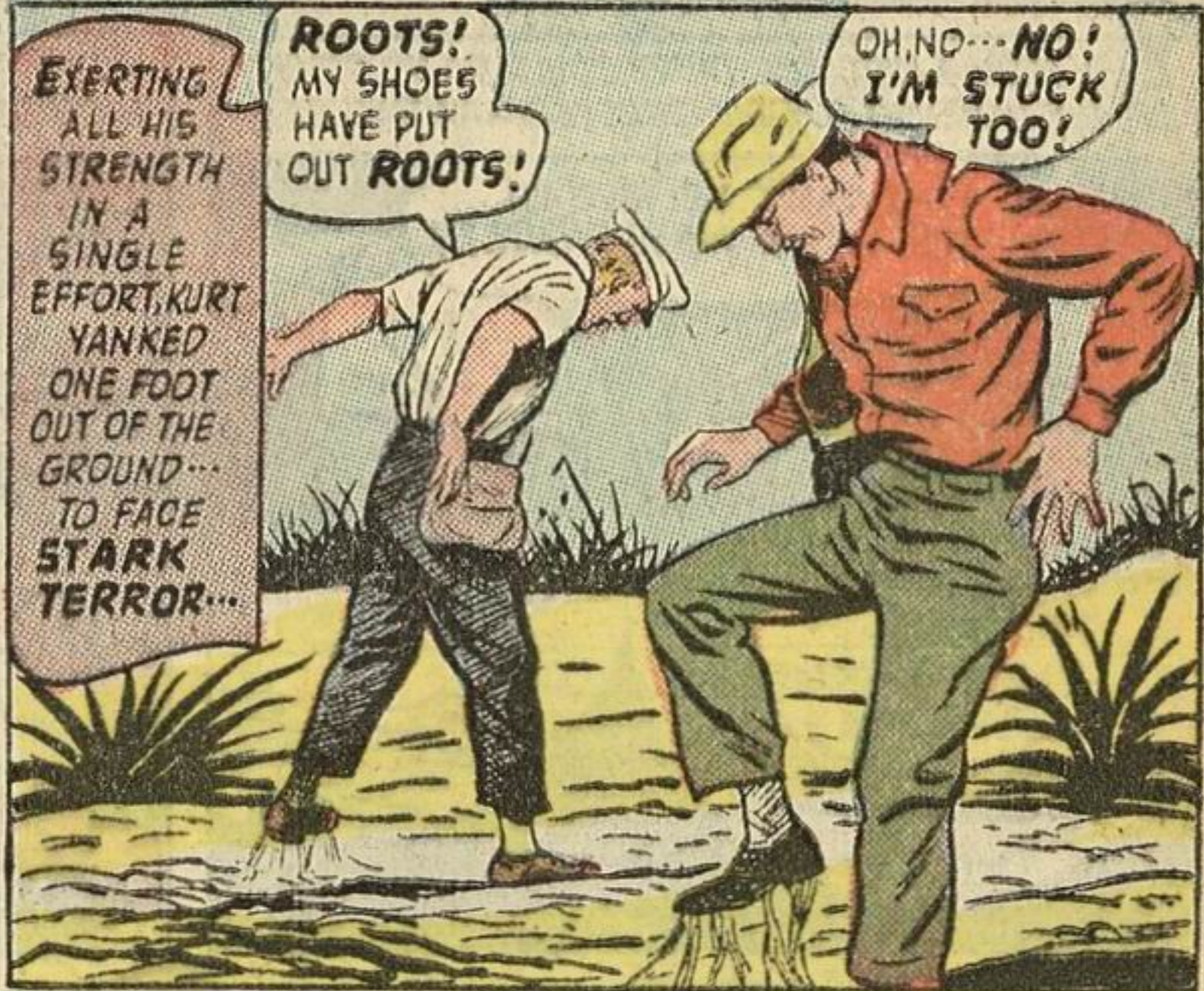
I...I CAN'T **MOVE!**
MY FEET SEEM TO BE
STUCK!



EXERTING
ALL HIS
STRENGTH
IN A
SINGLE
EFFORT, KURT
YANKED
ONE FOOT
OUT OF THE
GROUND...
TO FACE
STARK
TERROR...

ROOTS!
MY SHOES
HAVE PUT
OUT **ROOTS!**

OH, NO...**NO!**
I'M **STUCK**
TOO!



UNLACE YOUR SHOES
AND **RUN!** IT'S OUR
ONLY CHANCE!

IF ONLY THERE'S
ENOUGH **TIME!**

EMIL'S
AGILE
BRAIN
WORKED
SWIFTLY...

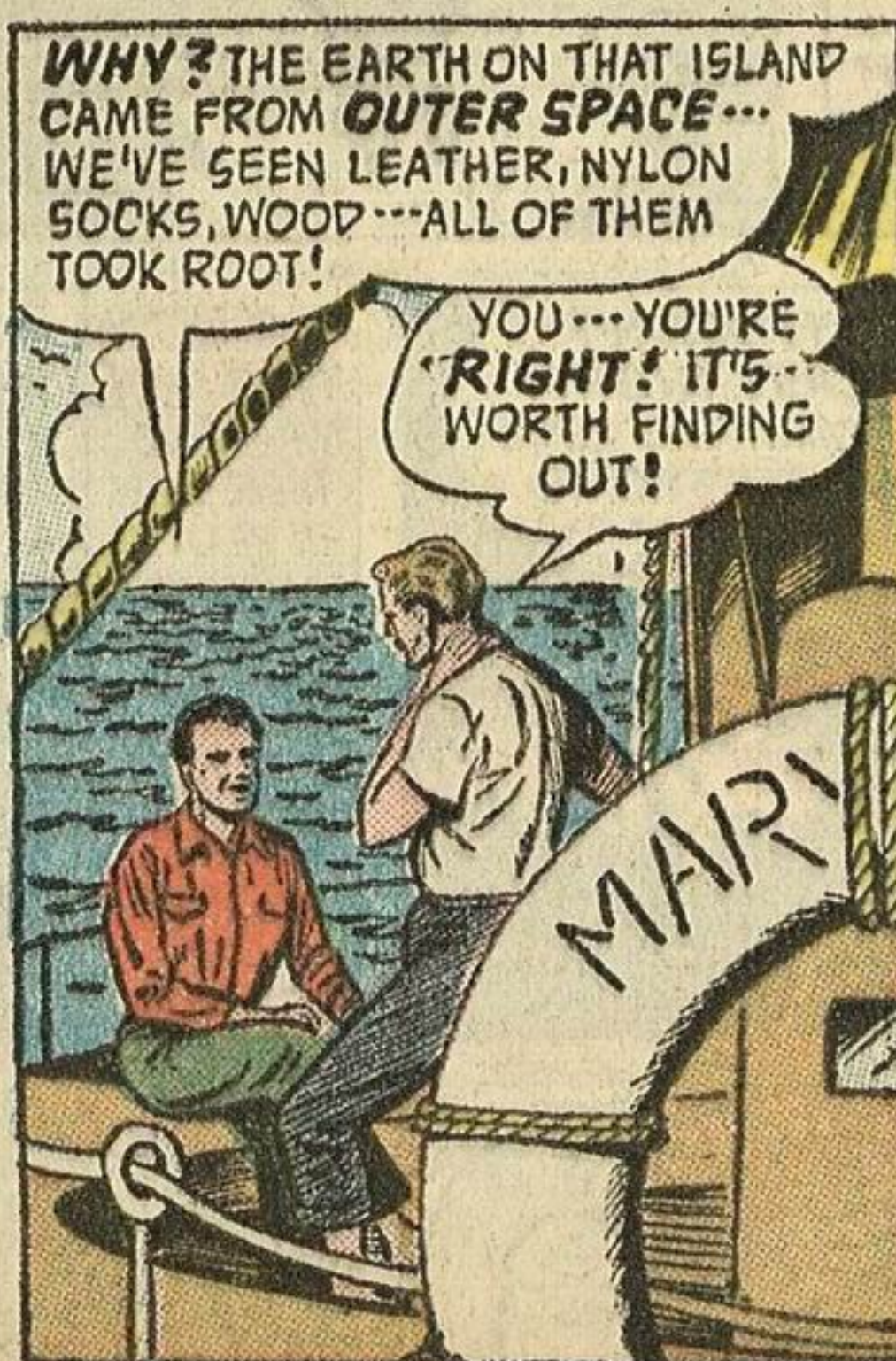
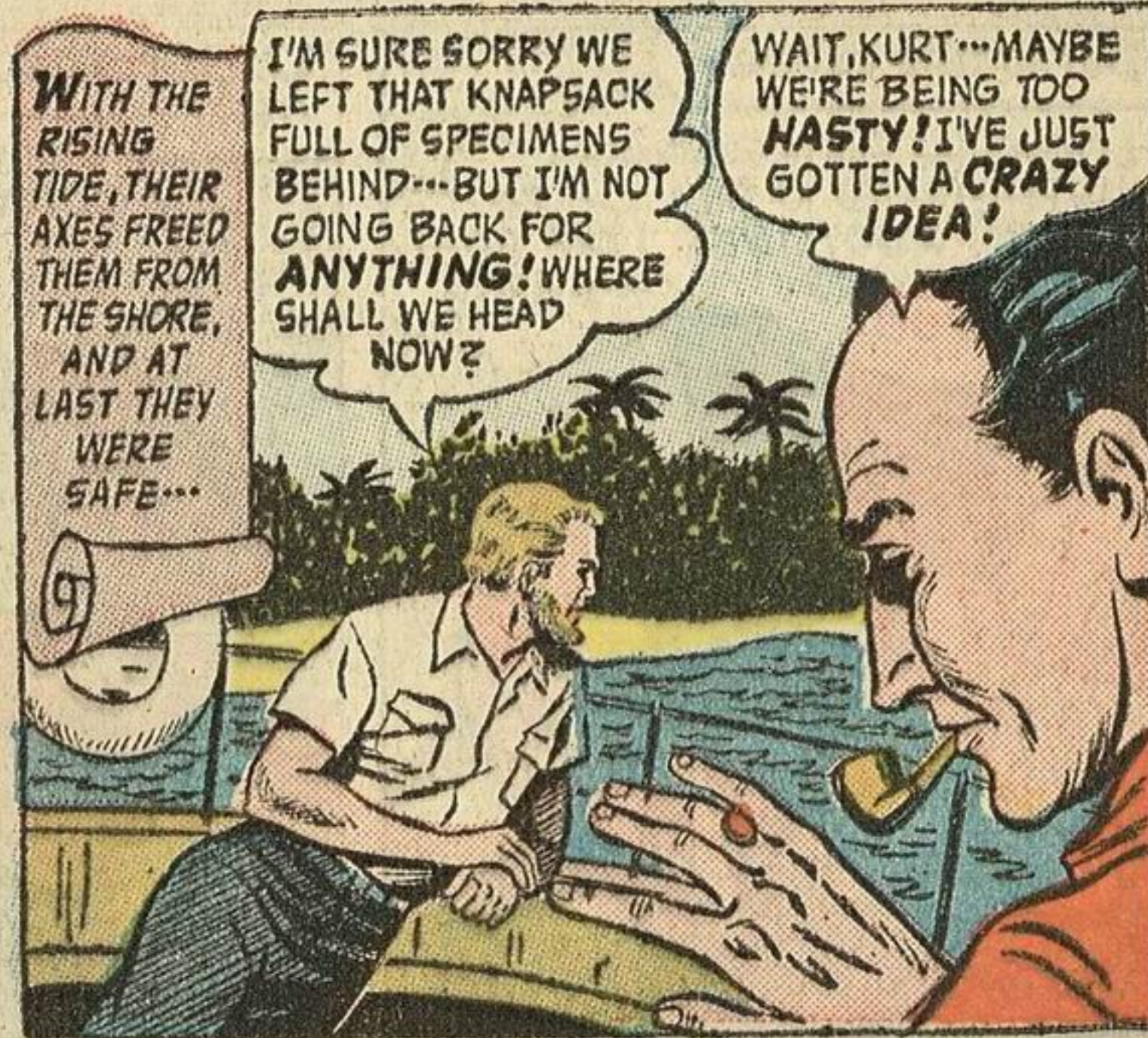
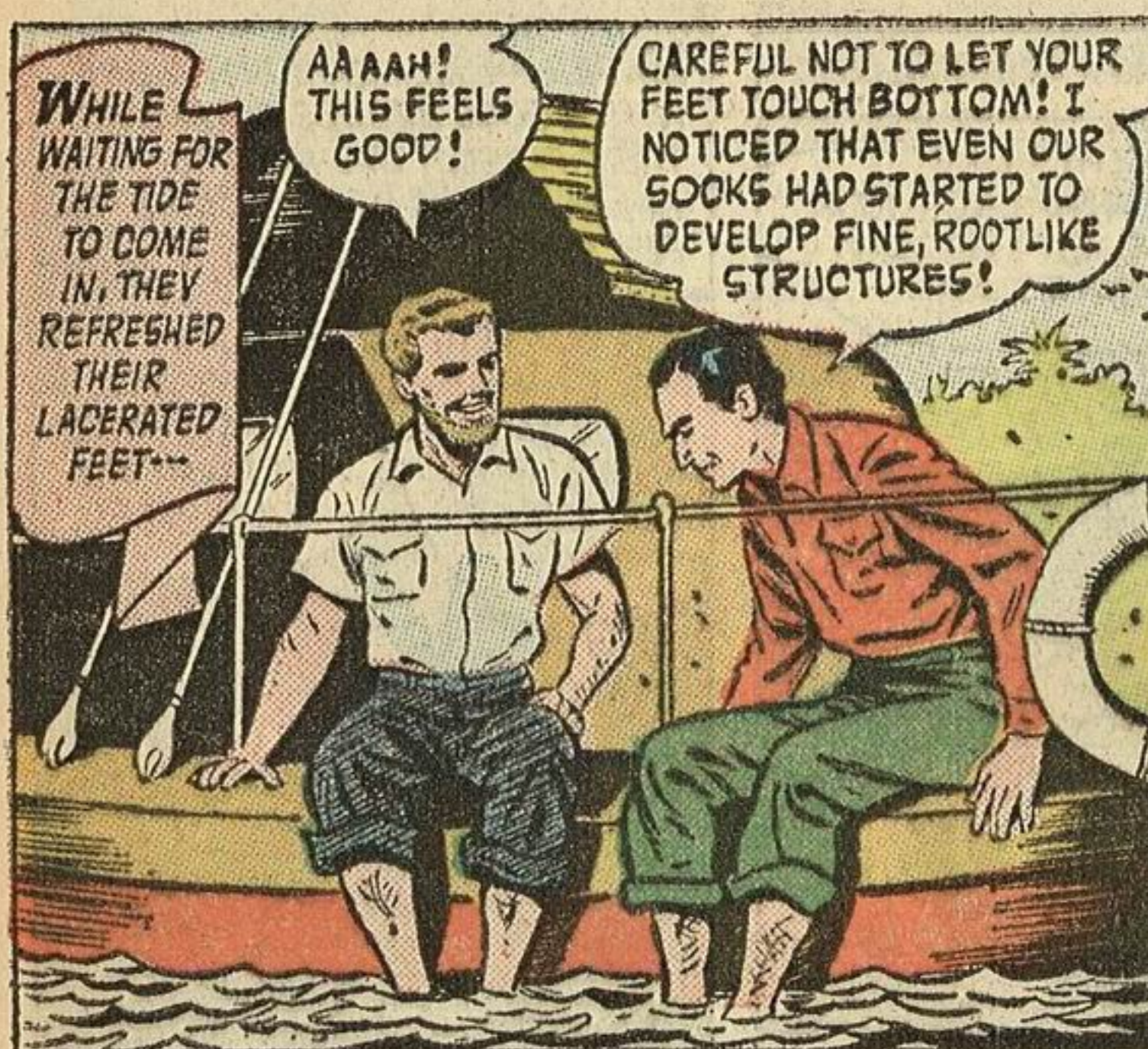


WITH
THEIR VERY
LIVES AT
STAKE, THEY
RAN OVER
THE STEAM-
ING EARTH
WITH EVERY
OUNCE OF
SPEED THEY
COULD
MUSTER...

THE GROUND
IS **BURNING!**

DON'T TALK!
SAVE YOUR
STRENGTH
AND **RUN!**





NEXT MORNING, WORKING SWIFTLY...

COME ON! I'VE GOT THE SPECIMENS AND THE PHOTOS! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO LINGER!

I'M ALMOST DONE! RELAX, THIS TINFOIL WE WRAPPED AROUND OUR SPARE SHOES GIVES US EXTRA PROTECTION!



WITH THE RING PLANTED, THEY COULDN'T RESIST VISITING THE SPOT WHERE THEY HAD ABANDONED THEIR SHOES THE DAY BEFORE...

GET PICTURES OF THAT! NOBODY'LL BELIEVE US, BUT WE WANT IT FOR THE RECORD!

THE BARK'S SOLID LEATHER! THIS IS... TERRIFYING!



AS THEY HEADED FOR THE BEACH...

OH-OH! I'M STARTING TO STICK AGAIN! THE TINFOIL IS ROOTING!

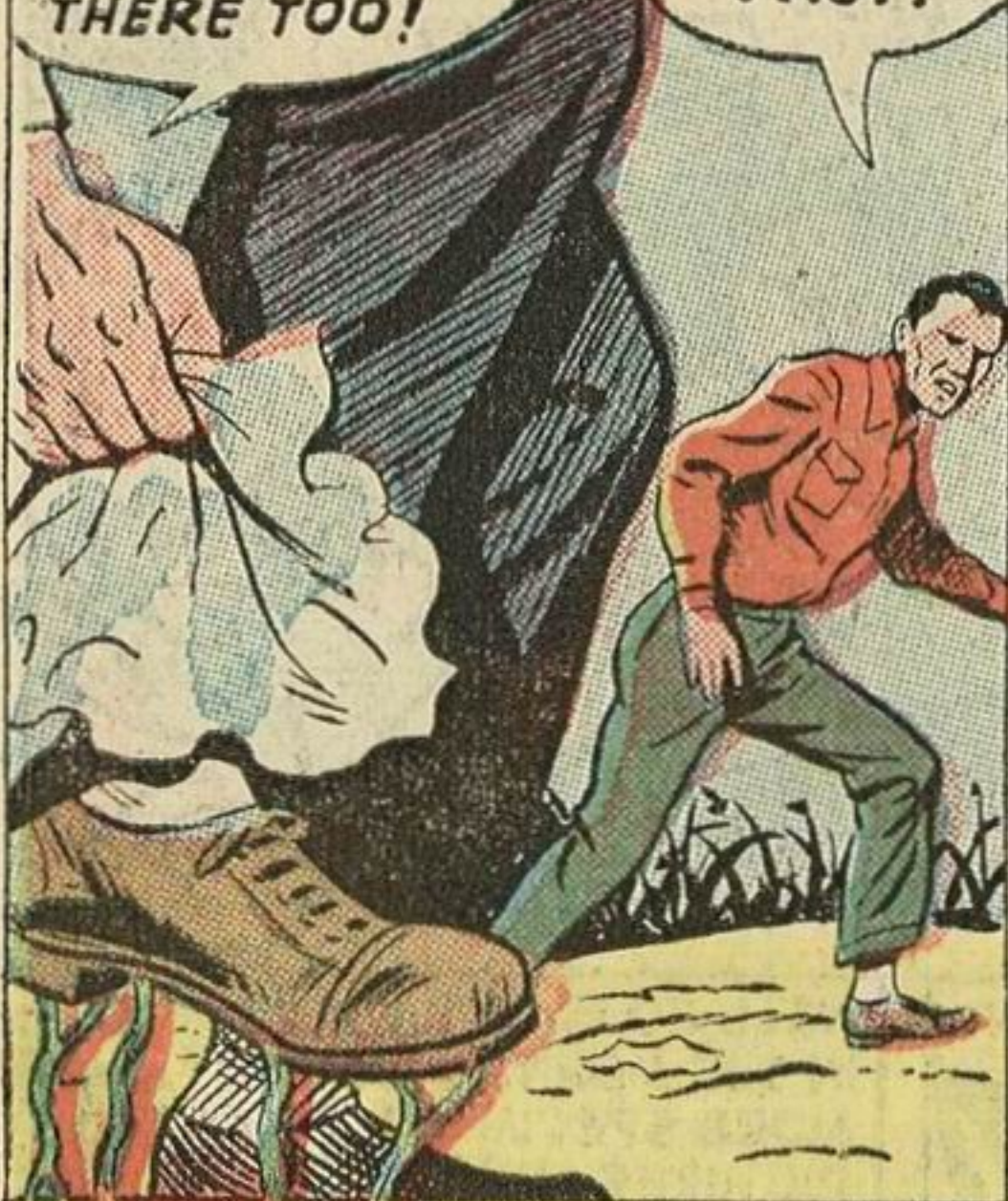
PULL IT OFF! OUR SHOES SHOULD BE PROTECTION ENOUGH TILL WE GET TO THE BOAT!



BUT TO THEIR SURPRISE...

LOOK! THE EARTH'S WARMTH HAS PENETRATED TO THE LEATHER... ROOTLINGS ARE STARTING THERE TOO!

TO THE BOAT... FAST!



ONCE MORE, IT WAS A RACE FOR LIFE ITSELF...

THAT EARTH'S LIKE QUICKSAND ONCE YOUR FEET GET HOT! WE JUST MADE IT THIS TIME!

PUFF... PUFF...



UNDER A FULL MOON THAT NIGHT, WITH A COOL BREEZE PLAYING ON THEIR FACES, IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE IN THE MENACE ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY...

IS IT WORTH IT, EMIL? I MEAN, GOING BACK TO SEE ABOUT THAT BURIED RING...

I'D SURE HATE TO LOSE IT... BUT... WELL, LET'S WAIT TILL MORNING!



IT WAS LONG PAST MIDNIGHT WHEN KURT NOTICED SOMETHING GLEAMING STRANGELY IN THE MOONLIGHT ON THE ISLAND...

IT... IT'S BEAUTIFUL... WHATEVER IT IS!

YES, AND IT WASN'T THERE LAST NIGHT! THIS IS SOMETHING WE'VE GOT TO INVESTIGATE TOMORROW!



NEXT DAY, WRAPPING THEIR SHOES IN HEAVY FOAM RUBBER, THEY SET OUT ONCE MORE! BEFORE THEM WAS A RADIANT BLAZE OF LIGHT, BECKONING THEM ON...

IT'S EXACTLY AT THE SPOT WHERE I BURIED THE RING! DO YOU THINK...?

I'M NOT THINKING! LET'S SEE!



LIKE MOTHS FOLLOWING A FLAME IRREGISTIBLY, THEY WENT ON---ON---TILL AT LAST--

GASP!!
AM I---
SEEING
THINGS?



I--I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT--

FOR SEVERAL MINUTES THEY WERE TOO AWESTRUCK TO SPEAK! THEIR EYES DEVoured THE GOLDEN BARK OF THE TEN FOOT TREE, FEASTED ON THE LUSH, GLASSY LEAVES---AND ALL THE WHILE THE SUN DANCED BRILLIANTLY ON THE CLUSTERS OF GLEAMING RUBIES---

WE--WE'RE
RICH---
BILLION-
AIRES!

LET'S FILL
OUR POCKETS
---COME
ON!



WHAT THE ...! THEY'RE STUCK FAST! WE'LL NEED A BLOWTORCH TO PRY THIS STUFF LOOSE!



NO! WE DON'T
HAVE TIME!
LET'S PULL
TOGETHER!

They USED
EVERY
OUNCE OF
STRENGTH
---TO NO
AVAIL!
AND
THEN---

THE FOAM RUBBER'S PUT OUT **ROOTS!** LET'S CUT IT OFF! OUR SHOES WILL PROTECT US FOR A WHILE---AT LEAST TEN MINUTES!



BUT THIS
TIME THEY
WERE WRONG!
FOR NO SOONER
HAD THEIR SHOES
TOUCHED THE
HUMID EARTH
WHEN---

IT'S STARTING! HEAVY
AND FAST! UNLACE!
WE'LL HAVE TO RUN FOR
IT WITHOUT SHOES!



BUT EVERYTHING WAS HAPPENING WITH GREATER SWIFTNESS ON THIS DAY! THE POWERFUL SUCTION OF THE EARTH CAUSED THEM TO STUMBLE---THEY HAD TO SCRAMBLE ON ALL FOURS TO SAVE THEMSELVES---

MY SOCKS ARE BEING
YANKED RIGHT OFF MY
FEET! THE SOIL'S GOT
THEM!

MINE TOO!
BUT WE'RE
GOING TO
MAKE IT!



BOTH WERE AWARE THAT THEY'D TRIED THEIR LUCK TO THE EXTREME LIMIT---

WE DARE NOT SET FOOT ON THE ISLAND AGAIN! **EVERY-THING** ROOTS---AND THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG IT TAKES FROM DAY TO DAY! I WONDER---MIGHT WE BE SAFE IN OUR **BARE FEET?**

THAT'S SOMETHING
WE'LL **NEVER KNOW**
---BECAUSE WE'D HAVE
TO PUT OUR LIVES
ON THE LINE TO FIND
OUT!



AND SO IT WAS DECIDED TO LEAVE THE ISLAND FOR GOOD, TRY TO FORGET THAT IT EVER EXISTED! BUT THEY COULDN'T HELP LINGERING TILL THE MOON WAS BRIGHT FOR A FINAL VIEW OF THE MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE---

LOOK AT IT! THE TREE MUST BE 20 FEET HIGH BY NOW! IT'S MADDENING---

YES---ALL THAT
IMMENSE TREASURE
THERE---**WAITING**
---AND IT CAN
NEVER BE OURS!



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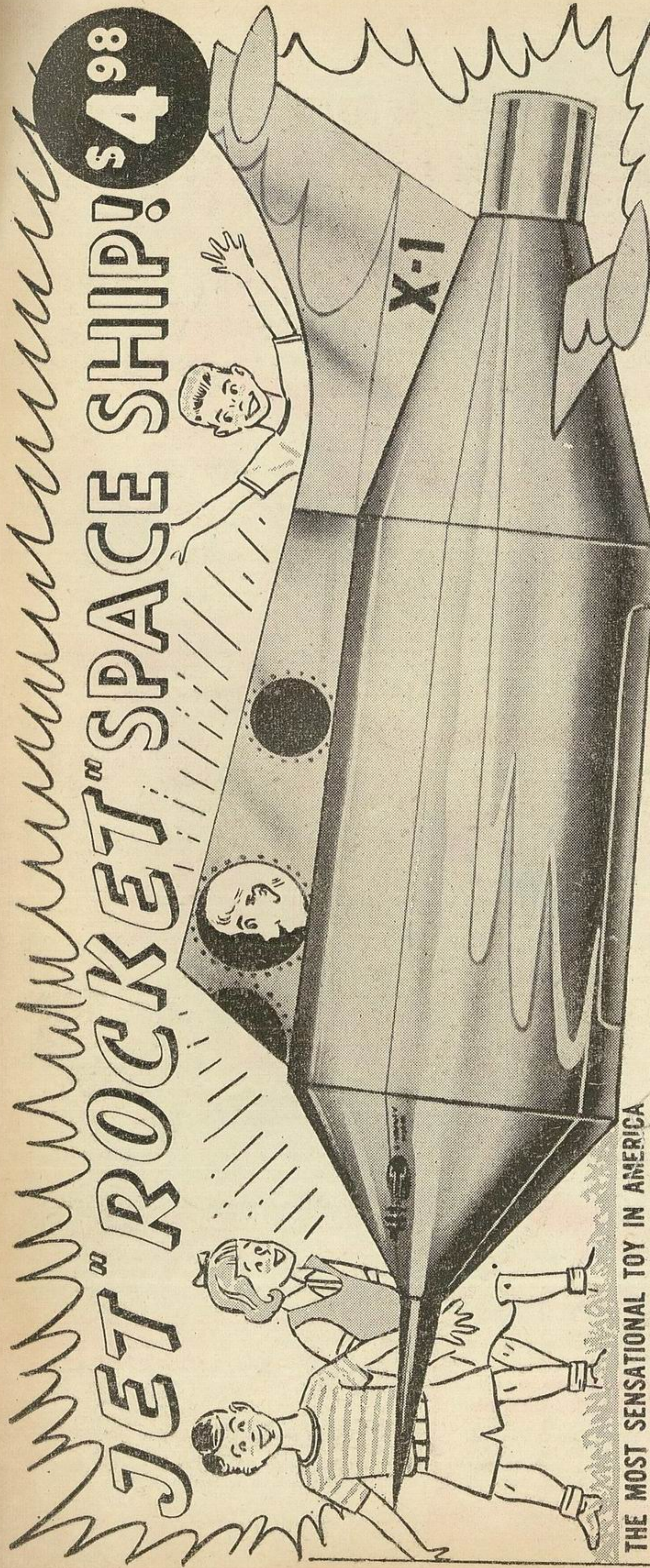
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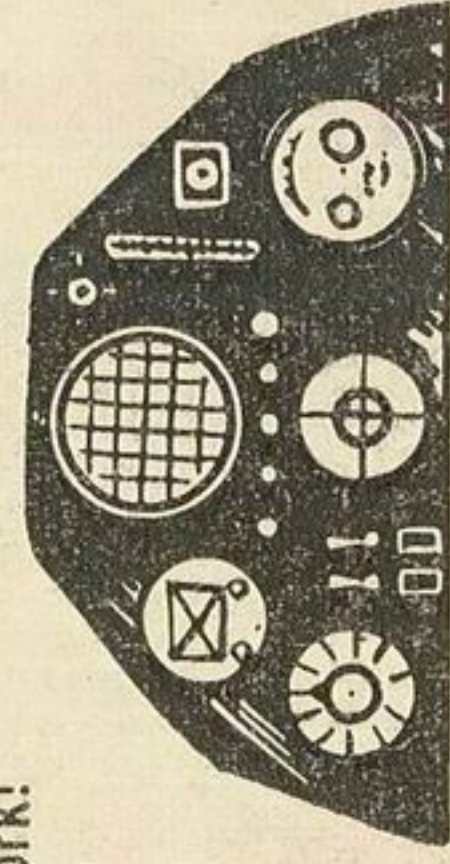
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